FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 APRIL 1983

Shultz Tour - Lebanon

Shultz in Israel — After two rounds of talks with Secretary of State George Shultz on 27-28 April, Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin said the talks were conducted in a "very good atmosphere" and noted that additional meetings will be held when Shultz returns from Beirut, IDF Radio reported. Earlier, in his first round of talks with Begin, Shultz delivered a "friendly" message from President Reagan and the IDF intelligence chief presented data on Soviet military involvement in Syria and Lebanon which "compelled the Americans to treat the issue seriously," according to Jerusalem radio. Israel's emphasis on the Soviet threat was intended to appeal to the United States to reach an understanding and stop pressuring Israel in view of the "common danger," the radio added.

Jerusalem radio also disclosed that Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir may present Shultz with a proposal for an Israeli-U.S. agreement to guarantee the arrangements in Lebanon. However, Shamir reportedly threatened not to submit the proposal if it were publicized beforehand, the radio noted. The proposal stipulates that any Israeli-Lebanese agreement could not be renegotiated by the Syrians, that foreign forces should leave Lebanon simultaneously, and that if one of the parties concerned violates the agreement Israel will stop implementing its part, the radio said.

Commenting on the Shultz visit, Alignment MK Yitzhaq Rabin said in an IDF Radio interview that Israel should insist that Shultz include Syria in the negotiations because without Syrian consent an Israeli-Lebanese agreement would be meaningless and the Lebanon problem could not be solved. He said Israel and the United States were mistaken to ignore Syria during the recent months of negotiations.

Although Jerusalem radio reported earlier that Shultz will visit Damascus "at least once," a Syrian official source cited by Damascus television subsequently announced that the Syrian leadership has not discussed the issue of a visit by Shultz and has held no contacts in this respect.

Reporting on Shultz' talks in Egypt, Jerusalem radio said the Egyptians told the secretary of state that they will return their ambassador to Tel Aviv if an agreement stipulating a timetable for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon is reached.

Before the talks with Shultz, Israeli Prime Minister Begin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Israel cannot make any concessions on the status of Major Sa'd Haddad's forces and that the Israelis should "stubbornly insist" on their security demands, Jerusalem radio noted.

Al-Wazzan-Fahd Talks — Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan discussed the Lebanon negotiations with Saudi King Fahd during a brief visit to Riyadh, Beirut radio reported. The talks covered Saudi support for Lebanon, the radio said, and Al-Wazzan announced afterward that the king had displayed "complete understanding and interest" in Lebanon's demands. Al-Wazzan also indicated that the Lebanese had asked for the removal of obstacles impeding Lebanese exports to Saudi Arabia.

Military Situation — Syrian forces in the Al-Biqa' valley again fired at Israeli bulldozers attempting to erect fortifications in the buffer zone, forcing the IDF vehicles to withdraw, a Syrian military spokesman announced in a statement reported by Damascus radio. The IDF spokesman confirmed the shooting, but said no one was hurt and the IDF did not return the fire, Jerusalem radio reported. In other developments Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the Syrians have deployed new missile batteries inside Lebanon near the Syrian border while Radio Monte Carlo said eyewitnesses have seen Libyan units stationed in the border area. According to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, the Soviet Union has established a submarine base at the Syrian port of Tartus. Meanwhile, the IDF intelligence data presented to Secretary Shultz affirms that there are over 4,000 Soviet advisers in Syria and Lebanon operating aircraft, helicopters equipped with electronic warfare devices, and two SAM-5 batteries that are directly linked with Moscow, Jerusalem radio reported.

Iraq

The recent battles in the Maysan sector will show the Iranians that they are incapable of achieving their military aims and that they must be realists in their dealings with Iraq, President Saddam Husayn stated in an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-ANBA' reported by KUNA. When Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni realizes the "impossibility" of invading Iraq he will issue the order to end the war "in one way or another, directly or indirectly," Saddam Husayn predicted. While downplaying the seriousness of Iraqi debts and inflation, the president admitted that the country is "passing through difficulties." Regarding Iraq's foreign policy, Saddam Husayn reaffirmed his support for the Fes summit resolutions as the "only" framework for a solution of the Palestinian problem, adding that Iraq rejects the Reagan plan. He claimed that during the invasion of Lebanon Iraq had tried to send two brigades to fight the Israelis, but "the roads were blocked before us" and the troops remained in Iraq. Asserting that Egypt's President Husni Mubarak should be given a chance to extract Egypt from the legacy and "shackles" left by Anwar as-Sadat, Saddam Husayn said the Arabs should not link Egypt's return to the Arab fold to conditions Egypt will not be able to fulfill.

In another development Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz left Moscow for Iraq after a 2-day "secret" visit during which he held "extremely important" talks with senior Soviet officials on the Iran-Iraq war, KUNA reported on 28 April citing diplomatic sources in Moscow.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held talks in Algiers with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. 'Arafat will chair a meeting in Kuwait on 6 May attended by the Executive Committee and PNC officials during which the PNC will be renominated and reappointed, according to Algiers Voice of Palestine radio.

A Baghdad Voice of PLO commentary underscored the PLO's desire for an "extensive and comprehensive" Arab summit conference that will coordinate a unified Arab stand to confront U.S. "imperialist" plans and stop the Israeli "plot" against the West Bank and Gaza Palestinians. Asserting that the PLO "neither raises impossible slogans nor practices narrowminded political policies that may hinder the achievement of a just settlement," the radio said the PLO has surmounted challenges intended to push it toward either leniency or extremism.

Afghanistan

Pakistan has become a "springboard" for interference in and aggression against Afghanistan and this hinders any political solution of the situation "around" Afghanistan, President Babrak Karmal declared in a revolution anniversary speech broadcast by Kabul radio.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 083 *28 April 1983*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Algiers VOP: PLO Leadership To Meet 6 May in Kuwait ..... A 1
PCC Formation on Agenda *[KUNA]* ..... A 1
PLO Official Calls on Arabs To Reconsider Policy *[QNA]* ..... A 1
PNC Speaker on Palestinian-Syrian Relations *[SANA]* ..... A 1
No Place Seen for Leniency in PLO Struggle *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... A 1
VOP Scores U.S. Policy, Urges Palestinian Unity *[Aden]* ..... A 2

OPEC AFFAIRS

UAE Minister on Stability of Oil Market, Prices *[Abu Dhabi]* ..... B 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Official on Shultz Tour, Omani-PDRY Relations *[AS-SIYASAH 26 Apr]* ..... C 1
Foreign Minister Comments on Gulf Oil Slick Talks ..... C 1
BRIEFS: Communication Agreement With Bahrain ..... C 1

SAUDI ARABIA

PLO Radio: Al-Wazir Arrives in Riyadh 27 Apr *[Baghdad]* ..... C 1
Riyadh Comments on Shultz Visit to Israel ..... C 2
Press on Results of Shultz' Mideast Visit ..... C 2
'UKAZ Comment ..... C 2
More on Shultz Visit ..... C 2
King Fahd Confers With Lebanese Prime Minister ..... C 3
Lebanese Prime Minister Departs ..... C 3
Defense Minister Arrives Geneva, Makes Statement ..... C 3

UAE

UAE Daily: Shultz' Will Return 'Empty-Handed' *[AL-ITTIHAD]* ..... C 3

EGYPT

'Ali Comments on Shultz Mideast Mission ..... D 1
Ghali Dismisses Reports of New U.S. Proposals *[WAKH]* ..... D 1
Ghali, UK Official Discuss Middle East Situation ..... D 1
Ash-Sharif on Relations With Arabs, Reagan Plan *[AL-HAWADITH 27 Apr]* ..... D 1
Paper Ridicules Suspension of F-16's by U.S. *[AKHBAR AL-YAWM 23 Apr]* 1
Chief of Staff Calls U.S. Arms Talks 'Fruitful' ..... D 2
Editorial Condemns Haykal Book Banning *[AL-AHALI 20 Apr]* ..... D 2
Press Council Denounces Criticism of As-Sadat ..... D 2
MAY Sees Israel Behind U.S. Embassy Bombing *[25 Apr]* ..... D 3

IRAQ

Saddam Husayn Interviewed on War, Other Issues *[AL-ANBA']* ..... E 1
Communique: Six Iranians Killed; Cities Shelled ..... E 2

Foreign Minister Leaves Moscow After 'Secret' Visit ..... E 2
Oil Minister Receives USSR Official 27 April ..... E 3
Cooperation Protocol Signed ..... E 3
Iraqi, USSR Officials Meet in IPU Meetings ..... E 3
Sa'dun Shakir Confers With CSSR Official 27 Apr ..... E 3
President Receives Jordanian Envoy, Message ..... E 3
Information Ministers Meet ..... E 4

JORDAN

Moroccan Envoy Arrives in Amman With Message ..... F 1
Islamic Group, USSR Ambassador Discuss Afghanistan *[SAWT ASH-SHA'B 27 Apr]* ..... F 1
SAWT ASH-SHA'B Urges U.S. Recognition of PLO ..... F 1
AR-RA'Y Examines 'Difficulties' Facing Shultz ..... F 2
Army Commander Receives U.S. Defense Official ..... F 2
BRIEFS: Jordan Receives Saudi Loan ..... F 2

LEBANON

Al-Jumayyil Chairs Weekly Cabinet Meeting ..... G 1
Al-Wazzan Returns From Saudi Arabia 27 April ..... G 1
Report on Saudi Talks ..... G 1
Chamber of Deputies Adopts Support Resolution ..... G 2
Chamber Resolution ..... G 2
Army Takes Custody of Al-Jumayyil Suspect ..... G 2
Haddad on Harassment of His Army Personnel ..... G 3
VOL Reports on Al-Biqa', Upper al-Matn ..... G 3
VOL 29 April Report ..... G 4
RFL Reports Soviet Sub Base in Tartus, Syria ..... G 4
Booby-Trapped Cars Being Prepared in North *[Voice of Free Lebanon]* ..... G 4
At-Turkumani Executed by Resistance Front ..... G 4
Franjiyah Comments on Forthcoming Shultz Visit ..... G 4

SYRIA

Official Source Says Shultz Visit Not Discussed ..... H 1
Syria's 'Steadfastness' Against Zionism Hailed *[Palestine broadcast]* ..... H 1
Press Condemns Israeli Military 'Provocations' ..... H 1
Iskandar Scores Israeli, U.S. Role in Mideast ..... H 2
Al-Asad Receives Solidarity Message From Castro ..... H 2
Minister Yasin Receives Iranian Minister 27 Apr ..... H 2
Minister, Delegation Leave ..... H 2
Romanian Trade Minister, Delegation Visit ..... H 2

ISRAEL

Border Tensions Now Increasing With Syria ..... I 1
Missiles in Al-Biqa' ..... I 1
People Fleeing Shtawrah ..... I 1
Ministry Official Blames Syria for Failed Talks ..... I 1
Shultz Continues Peace Efforts in Jerusalem ..... I 1
Shultz Comments on Negotiations ..... I 1
Shultz-Shamir Meeting ..... I 1
Shamir Proposal Detailed ..... I 2
Reagan Message to Begin ..... I 3
Post-Meeting Remarks ..... I 3
Navon-Shultz Meeting ..... I 3
Begin Addresses Knesset Committee on Shultz Visit ..... I 3
More on Knesset Meeting ..... I 3
More Comments From Committee ..... I 4
Rabin Sees Shultz Trip as 'Key Opportunity' ..... I 4

that are not responsible in the region, because Shultz set the first goal of his tour as the conclusion of a Lebanese-Israeli agreement, under his country's auspices, to withdraw foreign forces from Lebanon.

Reviewing the elements of the U.S. stand, the newspaper said: The primary goal of this tour is "to create the chance to activate the Reagan plan," affirming the difference between the first and primary goals of the tour. AL-ITTIHAD underlined the importance of achieving a withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, but warned against allowing for the possibility that the "achievement of the first goal is enough to activate peace efforts in the region."

The newspaper said the United States is not ready to pressure Israel in the tripartite negotiations to achieve withdrawal, which is the first goal of the U.S. secretary of state's tour.

Regarding the second goal of the tour, which is more important in Washington's view, AL-ITTIHAD said: This goal is activating the U.S. initiative. However, Reagan closed Shultz' road in activating the initiative by denying the PLO the right of representation.

AL-ITTIHAD said: In view of the announced Israeli stand on negotiations with Lebanon and the comprehensive settlement, the U.S. inability to amend this stand and Shultz' collision during his talks with the Israeli officials, it can be seen that the hopes that Washington pinned on Shultz' tour will be frustrated.

'Ali Comments on Shultz Mideast Mission

NC271625 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali made a statement saying [U.S. Secretary of State] Shultz is expected to send one of his assistants to Cairo at the end of his tour in order to brief us on the results of the U.S. secretary of state's talks with the Middle East states and to inform Egypt of what might be agreed upon.

'Ali added that Shultz' visit may help bring viewpoints closer and solve the Lebanese-Israeli problems. 'Ali said Shultz has not brought a solution agreeable to both parties, therefore he decided to remain in the area up to 8 May so he can make shuttle moves for narrowing the gap between both parties.

Ghali Dismisses Reports of New U.S. Proposals

GF271153 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0935 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Apr (WAKH) — Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, has denied that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz presented new suggestions during his visit to Cairo that ended today to close the gap between U.S. President Ronald Reagan's initiative and the Arab Fes summit resolution. However, Ghali did not discount that this issue might have been discussed during the bilateral meeting that was held between President Husni Mubarak and Shultz.

In a statement published by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today, the Egyptian minister said the talks he held with Shultz did not deal with the Palestinian issue, and that they were limited to the Lebanese crisis and U.S.-Egyptian relations.

Ghali, UK Official Discuss Middle East Situation

NC271509 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today received the director of the British Foreign Office's Political Department, Julian Bullard, who is currently visiting Cairo.

During the meeting, which was attended by the British Ambassador in Cairo, Michael Weir, they reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East situation and the possibility of the coming European move contributing to the peace efforts in the area.

During the meeting, Dr Ghali explained Egypt's role within the framework of the nonalignment policy. They also exchanged viewpoints on African issues.

Ash-Sharif on Relations With Arabs, Reagan Plan

NC271736 Cairo MENA in English 1630 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] London, April 27 (MENA) — Egyptian State Minister for Information Safwat ash-Sharif said today that Egypt's relations with the Arabs are relations of destiny and the future.

In an interview with Lebanese newspaper AL-HAWADITH Ash-Sharif said the Egyptian-Arab relations have never been severed though there are no ambassadors.

The information minister warned that the Palestinian cause faces a genuine danger, and called upon the Arab states as well as the Palestine Liberation Organization to move to face this danger.

Egypt is keen to save the chance of the Reagan initiative Ash-Sharif said.

Egypt welcomes any initiative, and does not stick to Camp David as the only framework though it is keen to maintain it, he said.

If there is any other frameworks that would be accepted by the parties concerned, Egypt will accept and welcome it.

Egypt has announced that peace is its strategic plan, so it was the first Arab country to support the Lebanese and the Palestinian people in the different forums.

Paper Ridicules Suspension of F-16's by U.S.

PM270950 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 23 Apr 83 p 9

[Fathi Radwan article: "Let the Arabs Hear the Lion's Roar"]

Excerpts] When U.S. President Ronald Reagan announced that he would not go through with the deal under which Israel would get a delivery of F-16 aircraft by 1985, some of those who still dream of the impossible told us with a sigh of relief and faces full of joy: Did we not tell you that Reagan was the new brand of Dwight Eisenhower who, when the Suez Canal was nationalized in 1956, undeterred by the so-called Jewish lobby, Zionist pressure, or the fact that he was running for a second term in the White House, ordered Israel, Britain, and France, in a decisive speech he delivered at the United Nations, to withdraw from Egypt and go back home. He strongly condemned Israel and firmly told it to leave all Sinai and every territory it had occupied.

Although we were aware of the great difference between the manliness and firmness of Eisenhower and the weakness, hesitation, and indecision of the present U.S. Administration, we said: Well done, if true.

We beseeched God to support Reagan in this move which gave the impression that the United States was now a little more sensible having realized that there can be no peace in the Arab east, not even a lame peace on crutches of deception and trickery, unless Israel is stopped.

However, no sooner had Reagan's announcement revived the hopes of those looking for a straw to cling to in the East's rough sea of ambitions, intrigues, and plots than Israel's radio surprised the whole world, as usual, with the report that its new war minister, who took over from the butcher Ariel Sharon with bloody hands, had picked up the telephone and asked to speak to Mr Shultz in Washington and that after a conversation lasting less than 15 minutes Shultz announced that the United States agreed to provide the necessary U.S. technology for Israel to

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

'Arafat Holds Talks With President Bendjedid *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... Q 1
Messaadia Holds Talks With French Communists ..... Q 1
BRIEFS: IRANIAN COMMERCIAL ACCORDS ..... Q 1

MOROCCO

Maghreb Nationalist Movements Meet in Tangier ..... Q 1
Boucetta Reads Statement ..... Q 2
Maghreb Party Officials Comment ..... Q 3
Aosario Communique Criticizes OAU Official ..... Q 4

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Moi, Delegation Arrive in Addis Ababa *Nairobi* ..... R 1
Mengistu Holds Talks With UN's Perez de Cuellar ..... R 1
Romanian Deputy Premier Holds Stopover Talks ..... R 1

KENYA

Ouko Addresses Paris Conference on Namibia ..... R 1

SOMALIA

Embassy in Kenya Gives Warning to Ethiopia ..... R 1

WEST AFRICA

BENIN

SDAR Head Makes Stopover, Speaks to Press ..... T 1

CAPE VERDE

Algeria's Abdelghani Discusses Bilateral Issues *APS* ..... T 1

GHANA

National Economic Situation Described, Analyzed ..... T 1
PNDC Member Announces $40 Million Food Program ..... T 2

GUINEA

Guinea-Bissau Prime Minister Arrives on Visit ..... T 2

IVORY COAST

President's Speech on Teachers Strike Reported ..... T 2
Assembly Supports President ..... T 3

NIGERIA

Armed Forces To Act 'Decisively' on Borders ..... T 3
AFP Report ..... T 3
Al-Qadhdhafi Asks End of 'Colonial Mentality' ..... T 4

Al-Qadhdhafi Changes Itinerary ..... T 4
Security Council Asked To Meet on Namibia ..... T 4
Papers Write on CIA Story, Beirut Bombing ..... T 5

UPPER VOLTA

Ouedrago Makes Statement on Subregional Tour ..... T 5

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Crackdown Noted on Diamond Smuggling to Portugal ..... U 1

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Opens Fourth Frelimo Party Congress ..... U 1
Zimbabwe Leader Speaks *[Harare]* ..... U 3
Soviet Warships Arrive on Friendship Visit ..... U 3

SOUTH AFRICA

Prime Minister Faces Rightwing Hecklers ..... U 4
Kangwane Leader Scores Homelands Policy ..... U 4
Stolen Radioactive Material Found Near Durban ..... U 4
Disturbances Continue in Durban Township ..... U 4

ZIMBABWE

Top Nkomo Aides Acquitted of Treason, Arms Charges ..... U 4
Detention Orders Served ..... U 5
Economic Trade With Romania Discussed in Harare ..... U 5

Algiers VOP: PLO Leadership To Meet 6 May in Kuwait
LD272243 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] The Palestinian leadership will hold a meeting on 6 May in Kuwait under the chairmanship of the Brother Commander 'Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

The meeting will be attended by members of the Executive Committee and the leadership of the PNC, consisting of the PNC chairman, his two deputies, and the council's Secretariat.

According to responsible Palestine Central Council sources, the purpose of the meeting will be to rename members of the Palestine Central Council, which is the inner board of the PNC and consists of 60 members [number as heard]. Members of the Palestine Central Council are renamed and reappointed after every PNC session. They represent the resistance groups, the national independent elements, the Palestinian unions, and popular organizations inside and outside the occupied homeland.

According to the same Palestinian sources, the meeting will also discuss the redistribution of tasks among members of the PLO Executive Committee, which was elected during the PNC session held in Algiers last February.

The sources added that the Executive Committee will draw up a plan for Palestinian political action in light of the new political developments resulting from the escalating American campaign against the PLO, the pressures on the PLO, the suspended dialogue with Jordan, and the Zionist threats to Syrian and Palestinian forces in the Al-Biqa' valley.

PCC Formation on Agenda
LD271124 Kuwait KUNA in English 1007 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Damascus, April 27 (KUNA) — The formation of a new Palestinian mini-parliament in exile, better known as the Palestinian Central Council (PCC), is to be discussed in Tunis early next May, according to the Palestine Liberation Organization's spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar.

Abu Mayzar told reporters Tuesday the PLO'S 14-man Executive Committee is to discuss the matter on May six with the Secretariat of the 300-member "Palestine National Council" (PNC). The 70-man PCC follows up implementation by the Executive Committee of PNC resolutions.

PLO Official Calls on Arabs To Reconsider Policy
GF271109 Doha QNA in Arabic 0815 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Apr (QNA) — Shafiq al-Hut, director of the PLO office in Beirut, has called upon all Arab countries to reconsider their previous calculations and plans regarding the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, which is still going on.

In a statement published by the newspaper AL-WAHDA today, Al-Hut said the Palestinian cause and the withdrawal of Israel need fast and intensified Arab efforts, because if Israel does not withdraw from Lebanon in the next few weeks or months, the Arabs will have to talk about Lebanon as a new West Bank in which the enemy will build settlements and whose fortunes and water he will plunder.

Al-Hut affirmed that the PLO is ready to give any support to the Lebanese authorities in order to evacuate the Israeli forces. He noted that the Palestinians in Lebanon are experiencing a terrorist campaign, led by the Israelis, aimed at scaring and intimidating them in a desperate attempt to deport them from Lebanon.

PNC Speaker on Palestinian-Syrian Relations
JN271413 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1245 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Helsinki, 27 Apr (SANA) — Khalid al-Fahum, PNC speaker, has stressed that Palestinian-Syrian relations are strategic and that recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's national rights is a basic matter to Syria. This came at a press conference Al-Fahum held here today on the occasion of the 132d session of the IPU Council in Helsinki.

Al-Fahum said that the Palestine question and the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent state are basic to Syria and concern Syria just as they concern the Palestinians. Al-Fahum also pointed out that Syria is being exposed to Zionist threats and that Israel is massing its troops. He added: If Syria is exposed to aggression, then any Palestinian, wherever he may be, will fight alongside the Syrian soldier to defend Syria and consequently Palestine.

Al-Fahum stressed the PLO's rejection of the Reagan plan on the Middle East and described it as [word indistinct] concerning the Arab people's issue and their adoption of the Fes summit resolutions and proposals for a just peace in the Middle East.

Al-Fahum also explained the difficult situation which the Palestinian Arab people are currently facing in the occupied Arab territories. He pointed out the Zionist enemy's crime of poisoning peaceful citizens en masse in the occupied Arab territories and its attempt to annihilate the Palestinian Arab people.

No Place Seen for Leniency in PLO Struggle
JN271958 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Commentary by radio political commentator]

[Text] Brothers, it is not unusual for the PLO to fight more than one battle at the same time. Repeatedly the PLO has fought to defend its right to armed struggle and has sometimes fought to defend its independent decisionmaking process.

More than one side has tried to challenge the PLO's right to represent the Palestinian people. Sometimes, these sides have tried to form alternatives to the PLO on the Arab or international levels; witness the recent statements of Reagan and Shultz. None of these attempts will be able to succeed.

Despite the flexibility shown by our leadership, which on certain occasions is interpreted as excessive leniency, the PLO has never shown and will not show any leniency in the struggle to defend its right to representation and its independent decisionmaking process.

The PLO has won this right due to the people's trust in it. Actually, rarely has a government or movement ever enjoyed such support by the people as has the PLO. The right of representation is the fruition of the PLO's fierce struggle and, therefore, it is determined to defend this right to the very end. There is no place for any leniency or flexibility in this regard and, naturally, there is no one in the PLO who disagrees that the right to representation was further entrenched after the Beirut battle, contrary to the expectations of hostile circles.

We can sum up the developments after the Beirut battle as follows: 1) The PLO is not only a Palestinian political and military framework but also an expression of a deeply rooted concept; 2) the PLO is indeed a political factor and the other political forces in the region and their allies cannot ignore this factor; 3) the PLO neither raises impossible slogans nor practices narrow-minded political policies that may hinder the achievement of a just settlement.

The PLO has successfully surmounted critical and grave challenges, some of which were intentionally fabricated in order cause a rift in the PLO. All these challenges were intended to confuse the PLO and push it toward either an excessive leniency that might strip it of its revolutionary nature or an illogical excessive extremism that might strip it of its ability to influence political moves.

Therefore, the PLO voices a deep concern for Arab harmony and coordination as well as for an influential stand which would undermine the attempts to impose successive partial solutions on the concerned states or to force an unjust so-called comprehensive settlement.

During the second Fes summit conference the PLO sincerely helped to achieve an Arab peace plan which included Arab insistence on an independent Palestinian state and the independent Palestinian decisionmaking process. This Arab plan called for a Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue to prevent attempts to force a foreign political or military solution which does not suit the national interests of either Jordan or Palestine and which conflicts with pan-Arab interests.

Contacts are now under way to hold another Arab summit conference. We want this summit conference to be extensive and comprehensive, not only to review the tours of the seven-member committee and find some kind of a solution following the failure of the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue, but also to come out with and coordinate a unified Arab stand for the coming stage to confront the U.S. imperialist plans in the region and to stop the Israeli plot against the masses of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, particularly since this grave design threatens the entire existence and presence ofthe Palestinian people on their own soil, on which the Palestinian state will be established.

VOP Scores U.S. Policy, Urges Palestinian Unity

GF280447 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1818 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The differences in the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue are still causing reaction in more than one circle and at more than one local, Arab, and international level. The differences can be summarized by the fact that the Palestinian side bases its joint political actions on the Fes summit resolutions, on the resolutions of the previous summits, on the PNC and on ensuring complete flexibility in order to reach the goal while preserving the principles.

The strange U.S. stance, which was represented in the concentrated attack against the PLO and against Commander in Chief Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], surprised both the Arab national circles and the friendly circles all over the world, particularly as this campaign was led by the U.S. President himself, by his secretary of state, by the U.S. media, and by some of the Western countries. This tendentious campaign has revealed the dimensions of the U.S. plot against the Palestinian people and against the Arab nation. This also revealed the strange insistence on imposing the Reagan plan on the Arab nation at a time when the Palestinian side stresses consideration of all sides, whether they be Arab or international, and that no initiative can be accepted unless it is based on the rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with international legitemacy.

The current stage necessitates more than ever that all the cadres and the fighters of the Palestinian revolution be fully vigilant, be extremely keen and aware of the dimensions of the struggle which unveils all the suspicious faces and uncovers all the evil attempts that emanate from some of the neighboring sides. It is regretful that even some Arab sides have the aim of striking at the Palestinian revolution with campaigns of intrigue and lies, which have been uncovered. The agentry and suspicious associations have been revealed as a result of the clever stand and distinguished political battle which the Palestinian revolution has launched on all these levels. This situation requires more than ever further Palestinian cohesion on all the levels in and out of the occupied territories.

UAE Minister on Stability of Oil Market, Prices

GF221130 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah has said that the oil market follow-up committee [chaired by Al-'Utaybah], which ended its meetings in London recently, has asked Algeria to contact the Soviet Union within the framework of the dialogue which OPEC is holding with non-OPEC oil-producing countries. He said: The committee decided to contact the other non-OPEC members that have not been contacted so far and coordinate between OPEC and non-OPEC members so as to give new impetus to the market.

In a statement to WAM on his return to the UAE from London today where he chaired the follow-up committee's meeting, Al-'Utaybah said that the committee has called on the long-term strategic committee to resume its work and review the dialogue with both non-OPEC producing countries and consumer countries. He said that the date of a meeting of the strategic committee has not been fixed yet and that the matter is still under discussion.

The strategic committee, chaired by the Saudi petroleum and mineral affairs minister, suspended its meetings about 2 years ago when it failed to reach agreement on a constant pricing policy for OPEC oil in the light of the successive crises that hit the oil market.

The UAE petroleum and natural resources minister said that the basis of the price structure of OPEC oil will continue to be $29 per barrel until 1985. Al-'Utaybah predicted that the oil market will pass through two stages. He said that the first stage will continue until the end of 1983 and will be a stage of halting the decline in the market and the stabilization of prices and production at current levels. He added: The second stage is expected to begin in 1984. He described the second stage as one of gradual improvement in the market.

Al-'Utaybah said the follow-up committee noted with satisfaction the encouraging developments in the oil market, which is becoming stable. He declared that no violations have been observed by OPEC members with regard to either production quotas or official prices during the first month of the implementation of the London decision.

In its Ministerial Council meeting held in London in March 1983, OPEC decided to reduce the official price of OPEC oil from $34 to $29 a barrel, and to reduce the ceiling of OPEC's production to 17.5 million barrels and to distribute production quotas among OPEC members within the framework of this ceiling.

Al-'Utaybah asserted that the adherence of OPEC member countries to the London decision has put the oil market on the right course and said that oil prices on the spot market have reached — and on many occasions exceeded — the official price of $29 per barrel.

The UAE minister praised Britain's decision to reduce the price of North Sea oil in a relative and limited manner that is not too far removed from OPEC price levels and the subsequent decision by Nigeria not to reduce its oil prices in response to Britain's action. He said that these actions by Britain and Nigeria have added a new factor that helped to stabilize the oil market.

Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Al-'Utaybah said: The follow-up committee will hold its next meeting in Paris on 7 June.

KUWAIT

Official on Shultz Tour, Omani-PDRY Relations

GF271416 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 26 Apr 83 p 2

[Nabil Ghazzawi Dispatch]

[Excerpt] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister, and foreign affairs and information minister, has expressed hope that the visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to the region will bring positive results on the issue of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territories.

Answering questions put by journalists on this matter, he added that the success of the Shultz tour, in this respect, will be a good measure of the extent of the seriousness of U.S policy toward resolving the regions crisis.

Commenting on his meetings with PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, he noted that they discussed bilateral relations. He pointed out that they discussed the development of relations between the PDRY and the Sultanate of Oman, and the upcoming Omani-PDRY meeting, which will be designed to implement the agreement of principles which was signed between them in Kuwait last year. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad added that the date of this meeting has not yet been established. It may be held in May in Kuwait.

Foreign Minister Comments on Gulf Oil Slick Talks

LD251634 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1507 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Apr (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy premier, foreign minister, and minister of information, said that the discussion he held today in his office at two separate meetings with the chairman of the Iraqi Council for the Protection of the Environment, 'Abd al-Haq Sharif at-Tawil, and with thechairman of the Iranian Council for the Protection of the Marine Environment, Reza Husayn Mirza Taheri, centered on the question of oil flowing from the Nowruz field and the efforts the states of the region are making to combat the oil slick in the Gulf waters which is threatening to destroy all forms of life.

He added that during the two meetings, efforts were concentrated on finding a formula to bring the two sides closer in their views. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad expressed hope that such efforts would be successful and that the aim which all the states of the region seek will be achieved.

Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Awadi, who attended the two meetings, said that the disagreement between the Iraqi and Iranian sides is confined to the ways and means of implementation. Responding to a question on the possible steps that will be taken if no agreement is reached, Dr al-Awadi said we shall not despair...and the meetings will not fail...even if if they go on for many years.

The Iraqi and Iranian officials and Minister al-Awadi had attended a meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment held here yesterday that failed to reach agreement on resolving the problem because of political differences between the two warring countries — Iraq and Iran. A statement issued today by the ministerial council says that in view of the fact that it was not possible to reach a unified plan to cap the damaged wells at the Nowruz field, the council has decided the following:

1. Continuation of consultations among the member states to surmount all the obstacles, in view of the fact that the incident has aspects other than technical ones.

2. To call on the states concerned to coordinate laying down national plans, exchanging information, and purchasing the necessary equipment and machinery to combat the pollution.

3. To call for action to lay down and implement a unified regional plan to combat sea pollution.

4. To underline the need to exchange information among member states with regard to this incident and the resulting pollution, and on results of laboratory tests on the extent of oil components among marine life.

5. To call on the technical committee to assess the capabilities available in the region to combat the pollution arising from the Nowruz incident and to inform the council about any technical assistance required from international organizations or governments.

6. To call on the acting executive [word indistinct] to follow up the necessary consultations and to call for another meeting of the council.

BRIEFS

COMMUNICATION AGREEMENT WITH BAHRAIN — Kuwait, 27 Apr (WAKH) — An agreement was signed today between Kuwait and Bahrain to connect both countries via a marine communication cable in the Arabian Gulf. The Kuwaiti and Bahraini communication ministers signed the agreement on behalf of both countries. [Manama WAKH in Arabic 1910 GMT 27 Apr 83 GF]

SAUDI ARABIA

PLO Radio: Al-Wazir Arrives in Riyadh 27 Apr

JN271721 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution's forces, arrived in Riyadh today. Abu Jihad will convey a message from Yasir 'Arafat to Saudi King Fahd.

The Fatah Central Committee has recently decided to dispatch envoys to the Arab leaders to outline the Palestinian viewpoint regarding the current situation.

Riyadh Comments on Shultz Visit to Israel

LD272222 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Husayn al-'Askari commentary]

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state began talks today with officials of the Israeli enemy government in a bid to speed up Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon. It is too early yet to state whether U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has succeeded or failed in his search for a formula to speed up the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. However, it seems that the Israeli enemy is not happy about the visit; for on the eve of Shultz' visit to Israel, the Israeli enemy prime minister made a statement reflecting uncordial feelings toward the visit. He said that Israel will not make any concessions regarding what he called its security conditions for the sake of reaching an agreement with Lebanon, even if this means the development of tensions in relations with the United States. Such a statement makes one believe that the enemy is not prepared to accept any proposals put forward by the U.S. secretary of state for speeding up the solution of the Lebanese problem, unless such proposals concede to the Israeli conditions. However, the Americans, who have pledged to concentrate their efforts on finding a quick solution to the question of the Israeli presence in Lebanon, are bound to achieve something as a result of their secretary of state's tour. The U.S. Administration will not accept any failure of its secretary of state's mission or his retreat in the face of Israeli obduracy. This is because the U.S. Administration is working to establish some sort of credence in its intentions, not only toward the Lebanese crisis, but also toward the crisis in the region. Israel has been trying to cast doubts on these intentions by saying that the United States cannot force the Israelis to accept anything they do not like.

It is evident from the development of events, with regard to the Israeli presence in Lebanon, that the Americans have an undec lared desire to ease the crisis of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. They also have a desire to find a compromise between the various peace plans put forward for solving the Arab-Israeli conflict, based on a more realistic American understanding and compliance with the facts of the matter — foremost of which is the right of the Palestinian people and their legitimate representatives to activelyparticipate in finding a just and lasting solution. This is because the Palestinian people are the essence of the cause.

Press on Results of Shultz' Mideast Visit

'UKAZ Comment

GF280510 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 29 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Text] On Shultz' visit and chances for a comprehensive settlement in the region, 'UKAZ said: The visit by the U.S. secretary of state to the region gains special importance in the U.S. move to find a just and comprehensive settlement to the Middle East problem.

The only thing certain so far is that Shultz will actually achieve an Israeli enemy withdrawal from Lebanon and the signing of an agreement between them. However, the Reagan administration and the Arab nation know that U.S. credibility cannot be divided by achieving a complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon while the primaryissue, the Palestinian issue, remains unresolved. A just and durable solution must be based on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish their independent state, and nothing else.

More on Shultz Visit

LD271108 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0720 GMT 27 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 27 Apr (SPA) — The Saudi newspapers published today dealt in their editorials with developments in the Arab arena and the visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to the region, in addition to the chances of a flareup in the confrontation between Syria and the Israeli enemy.

Concerning Shultz' visit to the region, AL-MADINAH confirmed that it has come at a time when the U.S. Government has not created chances for its success. Rather, the United States has embarked on its abortion. It pointed to statements by U.S. President Reagan on the eve of the visit in which he urged Arab countries to ignore the participation of the PLO in the peace process in the region, and cast doubt on the legitimacy of its representative nature. It said that President Reagan has given the impression with these statements that the U.S. has decided to adopt a new strategy toward the conflict in the Middle East — which ignores the PLO and urges the Arabs to do the same, a matter that will make the Arab officials reject the U.S. proposal because the legitimacy of the PLO is one of the pillars of Arab action.

Consequently, the tour by Shultz will fail. The newspaper added that what will reduce the chances of success of any peace effort is Washington's decision to provide the Zionist enemy with the necessary technology to build the Israeli Lavi fighter plane, a matter that is seen as an encouragement of the military adventure of the Zionist entity, and a tacit approval of its continued superiority over the Arabs and consequently, the consecration of its occupation and annexation of Arab land by force. The newspaper pointed out that the Arabs have made maximum concessions to recover their legitimate rights, have proposed the Fes principles for a peaceful settlement, and have gone to the capitals of the superpowers to explain their unified attitude while Tel Aviv has presented only arbitrary and aggressive practices. Yet Washington only finds negative points to raise before the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular.

The newspaper 'UKAZ said that Shultz's visit to the region comes to implement U.S. promises of achieving the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon as a first step toward coordinating stands and reaching a freeze on settlements in the West Bank. The visit is also intended to make the Israelis' terrorist Begin, in particular, understand that the U.S. President has indeed decided to confront Begin's challenge in Lebanon and

force him to reach an agreement that guarantees the withdrawal of the invading Israeli forces and all foreign forces from Lebanon.

'UKAZ said that Shultz has proposed the formation of a joint U.S.-Lebanese force trained specially to guarantee security in southern Lebanon. It added that if the Zionist state fears for its security in the north from the forces of the PLO, reaching a solution to the problem of the Palestinian people will end this problem completely if the Zionist argument is correct.

The paper called for the future of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to be settled after an agreement is reached on the withdrawal from Lebanon, because a settlement in Lebanon, even if it leads to ending all forms of foreign presence in Lebanon, will not bring about security and stability in the Middle East — not while the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and the Zionist dreams of expansionist settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip remain. During his tour, the paper urged the U.S. secretary of state to reconsider U.S. attitudes toward PLO participation in the talks for a comprehensive settlement, and for Shultz to contact the PLO one way or another, to secure the comprehensive withdrawals from Lebanon.

AL-YAWM confirmed that the U.S. alone is capable of putting pressure on Israel in view of the fact that 95 percent of the political, economic, and military aid that Israel receives comes from the United States. It added that Shultz's tour will not succeed unless the U.S. Government abandons its policy toward Israel and the PLO and puts pressure on Israel, making it clear to it that U.S. support does not stem from sentiment and that it has a price: the unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon, and recognition of the Palestinians, the PLO, and the right of the Palestinians to self-determination.

Under the headline "Shultz and a Crisis Without a Solution" AR-RIYADH wrote that the new clashes between the enemy and the Syrian forces may not be a matter that obstructs the tour by the U.S. secretary of state of the region, but it is an indication of the rift in solving the Lebanese crisis on the one hand, and the state of peace, which is not moving forward, on the other. AR-RIYADH went on to say that the Arab region faces three main problems: The Iraq-Iran war, which has had an impact outside the borders of the two countries; the situation in Lebanon and the multiplicity of the paths and difficulties facing its solution, on which the enemy is trying to leave its mark and future strategy; and the Palestinian problem, which is not facing problems from within as imagined by U.S. politicians, but from the U.S. Government's disregard for the most basic Palestinian rights.

AR-RIYADH wrote that United States is wrong if it [words indistinct] because any coming war will create a new visualization and situations in which no one can predict their results — a matter which does not serve the circumstances of the region and U.S. interests in the region. AR-RIYADH added that Shultz, who is trying to gain new ground for the Reagan plan, must know that the pores in the Arab body are blocked and that he should try to open them by halting the war waged by Israel. The routine meetings carried out by the U.S. secretary of state must be linked with a firm attitude leading to real results and not to maintaining the current state of affairs of enemy desires and intransigence and the laxity of the U.S. attitude, which wants to penetrate the Israeli barrier only at a price paid by the Arabs alone. These are the negative aspects and worries of the current situation.

King Fahd Confers With Lebanese Prime Minister

LD271357 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1318 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Apr (SPA) — This afternoon, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz conferred with Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and the delegation accompanying him. During this meeting, which was attended by the minister of finance and national economy, Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, and the minister of information, 'Ali ash-Sha'ir, a number of issues of mutual concern and bilateral relations were discussed.

Lebanese Prime Minister Departs

LD271649 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Riyadh, 27 Apr (SPA) — Shafiq Al-Wazzan, Lebanese prime minister, left Riyadh this evening at the end of his brief visit to the Kingdom, during which he had a meeting with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. He was seen off by Minister of Education Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, Minister of Information 'Ali ash-Sha'ir, and a number of officials.

Defense Minister Arrives Geneva, Makes Statement

LD271651 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1545 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Geneva, 27 Apr (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, and minister of defense and aviation, arrived in Geneva this evening on a private visit to Switzerland.

His royal highness expressed his satisfaction with the negotiations he conducted with officials in Turkey. Responding to a question by a representative of AN-NADWAH, the prince said that relations between the Kingdom and Turkey are proceeding according to the plan drawn up by the leaders of the two countries. He asserted that these relations are based on fruitful cooperation in the service of Islam and of peace in the region.

UAE

UAE Daily: Shultz' Will Return 'Empty-Handed'

GF280909 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0710 GMT 28 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 28 Apr (WAM) — A local daily today affirmed that the U.S. secretary of state came to the Middle East empty-handed and will return empty-handed. The paper pointed out that recognizing Palestinian rights and their return is the only key to any possible settlement in the region.

In its editorial on the U.S. secretary of state's tour, AL-ITTIHAD said: This tour is receiving the attention of most of the responsible circles and sources and other sources and circles

manufacture an aircraft called Lavi, which, translated, means lion. It is a fighter bomber not perhaps as good as the F-16 but very similar with numerous advantages not found in other Israeli aircraft and as good as any manufactured by the big industrial powers.

This has come as a new lesson to the Arabs — if they needed more lessons — that pinning hope on the United States is like the Devil's hope of going to heavan, and that the U.S. postponement of the delivery of 75 F-16's meant nothing because these aircraft were not due for delivery tomorrow, in 1983, or the following year, but in 1985, that is after hundreds of months or weeks.

Chief of Staff Calls U.S. Arms Talks 'Fruitful'

NC280858 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Text]Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—General John Vessey, chairman of the American Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo today following a 3-day visit to Egypt. He will hold talks with Lebanese officials on bolstering military cooperation between the two countries and will inspect the U.S. forces participating in the peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

Egyptian Chief of Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd Rabb an-Nabi Hafiz, who saw off Vessey at the airport, said that the talks of the U.S. general in Cairo dealt with means of strengthening Egyptian-U.S. cooperation in the field of modern armament. He described these talks as extremely fruitful.

Editorial Condemns Haykal Book Banning

PM271214 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 20 Apr 83 P 1

[Editorial: "The People's Right To Know the Truth"]

[Text] The sudden decision by the National Democratic Party [NDP] government banning Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal's book "Autumn of Fury" and all the Arab and foreign newspapers that serialize it and, consequently, banning AL-AHALI and the Egyptian papers from reproducing or serializing it is a serious decision calling for reflection.

The decision denies the Egyptian people the right to read the truth as seen by one of those who was close to the seat of power for many years and directly or indirectly participated in many important events that affected and still affect the life of the Egyptian people. The decision imposes censorship on the entire Egyptian people by a party that monopolizes power and claims for itself the right to impose restrictions on the freedom of publication and opinion. The decision is yet another sign that the NDP government is determined to escalate its continuing attack on the few democratic rights the Egyptian people have been able to secure. Recent months have witnessed a series of decisions and measures that confirm this antidemocratic stand, the latest being the blatant attack on legitimacy at the lawyers' syndicate. But this decision is of particular significance in the present circumstances.

Political parties' newspapers, which have resumed publishing since President Mubarak took office, are the principal means of contact between the parties and the masses in view of the ban on mass meetings, the restriction of party activities, and the denial of access to the national media such as radio and television. By this decision the parties' newspapers are facing the danger of losing their restricted freedom to address the Egyptian people and put the facts before them. Consequently, there is the danger of doing away with the only real feature of democracy and freedom in Egypt.

This decision confirms that the Sadatist forces, which have been on the defensive since As-Sadat's departure, have now moved from a defensive to an offensive position. This has serious effects on the internal political atmosphere that has prevailed during thelast year, which signaled the opportunity for free democratic dialogue and ended the phenomena of violence and counter-violence that marked political life under the previous president.

The banning of the book in Egypt while the whole world — including the Arab world — is reading it in 16 languages (so far), is an indication that this is not a question of defending the reputation and person of an Egyptian ruler but that the real aim is to defend his policies before the Egyptian people, that is to defend the parasitic minority of brokers, black market merchants, smugglers, and enterpreneurs and their agents. It is also to defend their policies of impoverishing the Egyptian people in the interest of the minority and the policy of economic subservience to the capitalist West, of halting development and production in the name of the open-door policy, of being hitched to the bandwagon of U.S. policies, of separate peace and normalization with Israel, and the rest of the policies from which the Egyptian people have suffered and are still suffering.

The decision also reveals the closer association between hostility to democracy and the economic crisis. The more it is proved that the government is unable to solve the crushing economic crisis from which the Egyptian people are suffering — the crisis for which the government is responsible because of its blundering and its rejection of a real solution to this crisis in deference to the interests of the parasitic minority — the more often it resorts to restricting public freedoms and attacking democracy because of its fear of the anger and fury of the masses.

The matter concerns not only a decision to ban a book or the publishing of parts of it in a newspaper, the right of a writer to give his testimony, the right of a paper to express its views, the right of a party to determine the policy of its own newspaper, but also, in the final analysis, the future of democracy in Egypt and the relations between the political forces, whether in government or opposition.

Unless this problem is solved in favor of democracy Egypt is suffering will be solved, including the problem of making a living, from which everyone in Egypt who is earning his livelihood with honor and sweat is suffering.

Press Council Denounces Criticism of As-Sadat

NC271748 Cairo MENA in English 1715 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, April 27 (MENA) — The Higher Press Council denounced today what had been published recently by some

papers on the private life of the late leader Anwar as-Sadat and on the October War victory.

In a statement released today in this respect the council said such publications are adverse to the brilliant historical facts, an attack on the immunity of the dead and a violation of all religious, ethical and professional traditions besides an attempt to blur the glory of the Egyptian Army and the heroism of the people.

The statement also lashed at the publications written in this respect by the journalists Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal, and Dr Yusuf Idris.

MAY Sees Israel Behind U.S. Embassy Bombing

PM271402 Cairo MAY in Arabic 25 Apr 83 p 2

[Salamah Ahmad Salamah Article: "Who is Behind the Incident?"]

[Excerpt] All the signs indicate that the tripartite negotiations between Lebanon, Israel,and the United States are facing serious obstacles not only from Israel but also from many political forces inside the United States. The bomb explosion at the American Embassy in Beirut has revealed the limited leeway within which President Reagan's administration can move. The party that was quickest to exploit the effects of the incident was Israel followed by the forces supporting it in the U.S. Congress. Israel took the incident as an excuse to demand new security guarantees and to stress that the Lebanese Government will not succeed in maintaining internal security without the help of external forces and that the best thing is for such assistance to come from Israel because the U.S., Italian, and French peace-keeping forces will not remain in Lebanon forever.

A quick confirmation of this logic came in the decision adopted by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee which put an immediate end to the ideas that were circulating about sending more U.S. Marine forces to Lebanon or expanding the scope of their operation without obtaining the Senate's prior approval.

If this decision does not weaken the U.S. role in Lebanon, it will no doubt double Israel's capacity to exert pressure in the current talks in order to extort more concessions from both Lebanon and the United States.

Therefore, there is no further need for proof or evidence that the party with a real interest in organizing the U.S. Embassy incident is the party who knows what effect such an incident would have on U.S. public opinion and Congress in preventing the Reagan administration from taking new steps. The multinational forces and especially the U.S. forces were previously the target of deliberate Israeli provocations whose purpose was to restrict the activities of these forces as much as possible and to get rid of them by any means, for neither the French, Italian, or U.S. Governments can accept the exposure of the life of their troops to daily risks and systematic attrition. The Italian foreign minister had previously warned against this situation and hinted at the possibility of withdrawing the Italian forces if Israeli provocations continued.

Nevertheless, nobody expects the actual hands behind the U.S. Embassy bombing incident to be uncovered, just as nobody unraveled the mystery of the assassination of Bashir al-Jumayyil, and just as the incident of the U.S ship Liberty in the 1967 war remained a secret until it was revealed a few years ago and the world learned that Israeli intelligence was behind it.

Saddam Husayn Interviewed on War, Other Issues

LD271209 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Apr (KUNA) — President Saddam Husayn said in an interview published today that Iraq rejects President Reagan's initiative in the Middle East, and adheres to the Fes resolutions as a minimum for Arab political action on the Palestinian question. As to the recent battle of Misan, it has tipped the strategic balance in favor of Iraq and speeded up the end of the Iraq-Iran war.

In a lengthy interview given to AL-ANBA', he added that the Iraqi Army has scored "honorable victories" in the recent battles. These victories constitute a new and radical turning point in this war since "they have changed the war strategy with Iran and speeded up bringing the conflict to an end."

The Iraqi president pointed out that in their recent attack, the Iranians "suffered defeats by their regular army and revolutionary guard despite making intensive preparations covering all details, and the most intricate and detailed calculations to ensure they would outnumber our forces by three to one. They chose the position, time, axes, sector, and target, but still sustained defeats that should convince them that a military solution will not yield them anything."

Asked if, when, and how this war will end, now that it has entered its 32d month, President Saddam Husayn said: "The final outcome of this war, and of the recent battle of Misan, will show the Iranians that they are definitely incapable of achieving their aims against us and, consequently, convince them that they "are indeed" incapable of achieving their ambitions. Therefore, their rational streak will come to the fore. This will clearly tell them that since they are incapable of achieving what they wished to achieve, they must be realists in their dealings with Iraq."

As to his opinion about the Iranian religious leader, Ayatollah Khomeyni, he said: "I believe Khomeyni is not a man of religion, but a politician, and in the light of this fact, I believe that a politician like Khomeyni will not disregard the objective situation facing him when he clashes with it or fails to deal with it in the way he wants." He cited an example of what had actually been said about the way in which Khomeyni dealt with America over the question of the American hostages. Khomeyni issued a ruling on the need to deal with "the great satan", and ended the matter immediately when he sensed that the question of the hostages was hurting him on the international level and domestically in Iran.

President Saddam Husayn expressed his opinion that when imam Khoemyni reaches the conviction that he is "incapable of invading Iraq, and that the war has begun to bite into his own flesh socially, politically, and economically, he will then issue the order to end the war in one way or another, directly or indirectly."

With regard to the financial debts Iraq is incurring as a result of the continuation of this war, and to report that the rate of inflation in Iraq has reached 50 percent, he said: "Iraq is a large ship, and it takes a long time for this ship to be filled up, just as it takes a long time to exhaust its cargo." He added that "no matter how much Iraq is in debt, it remains a rich country with potential, resources, revenues, and people...and when this war ends, Iraq will be capable of repaying all its debts without any delay or excuse." He went on to say: "These debts accrued because of the war, and with the end of this war, they will end, because Iraq has developed in all domains, particularly in the field of the new "working" man, the producer, the one capable of fulfilling commitments, repaying debts, and developing resources."

As to what has been reported about the rate of inflation, he said: "They are exaggerated and imaginary figures." However, he admitted that Iraq "is passing through difficulties" and asked: "How could we fight for 3 years and not be in difficulties" adding: "This does not mean that we are in deficit...in all circumstances we are managing our affairs, organizing our budget, and balancing our state of affairs in a manner that does not at all call for concern."

On the lessons that the Iraqi leadership has learned from this war, President Saddam Husayn said: "We have learned a great deal in the field of international foreign policy. The war has taught us that the big do not look upon the small with respect unless the small are needed for the big to become... bigger or for the big to remain big." He added: "This war has also taught us that you cannot rely on your friends as much as you can rely on yourself. Moreover, you must only judge a friend after testng his friendship through experience so there will be no surprises and you will not live under any illusions."

Responding to a question on the Arab position toward the war, the president said: "I have told my brothers in the Revolution Command Council since the beginning of the armed conflict not to let the Arabs bear more than they can. It is not fair to let them bear more than they can. We here must shoulder the burden of the Arabs and not let them shoulder the burden of Iraq".

As to the opinion of the rest of the world about the war, he said that he had told the Revolution Command Council "that Iraq has friends who would not harm us, just as there are some who would carry swords to fight us, just as Iran is doing. President Husayn said: "I have told the Revolution Command Council that we must not include in our calculations the possibility of anyone entering this war on our side. If anyone extends his hand to us, then we must welcome him and appreciate his position and do everything possible to encourage him to continue his friendly position toward us." He added: "The surprise in this war is that the international situation is not as bad as we expected." As to the Arab position, he said it is "as we expected, the good people reacting to a certain degree and the bad people, whom we know, remaining evil. This was not a surprise to us".

The president said: "We go along with whatever the Palestinians decide. What concerns us is Palestinian opinion; what the Palestinians approve we approve and do not oppose." He added: "I say without equivocation that the agreement reached by the Arabs at the Fes conference must be the only framework through which and within which any dealings are conducted on the Palestinian issue. We reject the Reagan initiative based on this premise".

He pointed out that Iraq's position towards the Jordanian-Palestinian talks is that "we are happy at the strengthening of

relations between them; we are pleased with their continuation, and will always encourage them. However, we will not clash with any Palestinian opinion, even if differences emerge between us over that opinion, because the Palestinian opinion we consider to be closer than our opinion to the field of events from both the psychological and official points of view".

On the current situation in Lebanon, he said: "We ask those concerned in Lebanon to return to the Arab fold and to remain in it; but before we seek to return Lebanon to the Arab east, we must secure the return of the Arab east to itself, because we cannot expect one part of the body to be feeling well when the entire body feels sick." He pointed out that Israel would not have encroached on or dared to invade Lebanon and continue the occupation of the Arab territories and its aggressive practices against the Palestinian Arab people if it had concluded that the Arab states around it were capable of checking it." He disclosed that when the Israeli invasion of Lebanon took place last summer, Iraq tried to send two brigades to Lebanese territory and contacted the states through which this armed force would pass, "but the roads were blocked before us and the Iraqi force, which was equipped to support our brothers in Lebanon, remained on Iraqi territory".

President Husayn expressed his bitter disappointment "at the Arab weakness, division, and decline" which made the United States "dare enter into an alliance with Israel in such a manner."

Regarding the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor, he said: "Israel knows well that that reactor was for peaceful purposes only and that the attack gave it only a temporary success in hindering Iraqi access to nuclear technology".

He said: "The decision to rebuild this reactor has been made. It will be built with the help of France. Negotiations with France in this respect are continuing: the negotiations will succeed and the reactor will return to Iraq."

Regarding Iraqi-Egyptian relations, he said: "The Arabs are aware of the secrets of Egypt's weakness, and Egypt is also aware of the secrets of the weakness of the Arabs; we have to overcome the difficulties facing Egypt's return to the Arabs".

He pointed out that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is unlike former President Anwar As-Sadat. "We must give him a chance to extract Egypt from its legacy and liberate it from its shackles, because Egypt forms one-third of the Arab nation. We must not link Egypt's return to the Arabs to conditions that Egypt itself will not be able to fulfill."

The president stressed "that Iranian expansionist ambitions will come to an end, plots against Iraq will fail, and the Iraqi people will continue their march towards shouldering their pan-Arab responsibilities in standing up to the Israeli onslaught in the Middle East region."

Communique: Six Iranians Killed; Cities Shelled

JN271607 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA) — An Iraqi military communique has stated that six Iranians were killed and others wounded during the military operations on the battlefront during the past 24 hours.

Communique No 1,074 issued by Armed Forces General Command stated that five Iranians were killed in the central sector of the battlefield when Iraqi units clashed with an Iranian troop concentration opposite one of our forward units' positions. The enemy was seen evacuating its dead and wounded. The communique added that two infantry positions and one hardware stockpile were also destroyed.

The communique reported that the Iraqi forces found a quantity of medium and light weapons and other equipment left by the Iranian forces during the recent battles in the Maysan operational theater.

The communique stated that the Khomeyniite clique today shelled Basra and its outskirts, and Zurbatiyah, causing some damage to several civilian establishments. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,074 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The glorious sons of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah pursue their valiant activities crowned with victories and capability. The results yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite one of our forward units' positions in the central sector of the battlefield. Our unit struck it with all types of weapons, killing five, wounding many, and destroying two infantry positions and one hardware stockpile. The enemy was seen evacuating its dead and wounded.

2. One was killed, and one mortar position, one antitank position, and one infantry position destroyed in the Maysan operational theater. Our forces also found a quantity of medium and light weapons and other military equipment that the enemy left behind during the recent battles in the abovementioned theater.

3. The criminal Khomeyniite clique today shelled Basra and its outskirts, and Zurbatiyah, causing some damage to civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 April 1983

Foreign Minister Leaves Moscow After 'Secret' Visit

LD280954 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0850 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Moscow, 28 Apr, (KUNA) — High-level diplomatic sources reported that deputy prime minister and foreign minister,

Tariq 'Aziz, left here early this morning for home at the end of an "extremely secret" visit of 2 days.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, told KUNA that the senior (?Iraqi) official was accompanied by a high-level delegation during the visit. They added that 'Aziz held talks with senior Soviet officials, whom the sources did not identify, on the recent Iranian attack on Iraq.

The sources linked 'Aziz's visit to Moscow, which has a treaty of friendship and cooperation [words indistinct] and the attack. The sources noted that the visit took place following the message to Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov from the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, urging the Soviet Union to seek collective efforts by the five permanent members of the Security Council to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf war. That message was one of five which the amir had sent to the five big powers. The sources gave no other details about the nature of the visit or the talks held, and simply described it as "extremely important".

Oil Minister Receives USSR Official 27 April

JN271855 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi today received Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and deputy head of the USSR side to the Joint Iraqi-USSR Committee, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the cooperation existing between Iraq and the USSR in the oil sphere and the preparation for the 13th meeting of the Joint Iraqi-USSR Committee in June.

The two sides also discussed ways of promoting bilateral relations in the service of their joint interests.

Oil Ministry officials and the USSR ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

JN271941 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA) — Iraq and the USSR today signed a supplementary protocol to the agreement on economic and technical cooperation for expanding the field of action of the Iraqi-USSR Permanent Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation.

The protocol was signed by Mahdi Muhsin 'Awdah, Trade Ministry under secretary and deputy head of the Iraqi side to the committee, and Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and deputy head of the USSR side to the committee.

The two sides discussed preparations for the 13th session of the permanent committee, to be held in Moscow in June.

During the signing ceremony, the head of the Iraqi side praised the results achieved during the meetings, stressing Iraq's desireto promote cooperation with the USSR through a joint understanding in all fields.

The deputy head of the USSR side to the committee praised the cordial negotiations, which led to the signing of the documents, particularly the agreement on scientific cooperation between the two countries, that will have important future results. He added that Iraqi-USSR cooperation during the previous session of the committeeand the current meetings, has developed and reflects the friendship which exists between the two countries. He said that the contracts that were signed are the result of this joint cooperation.

Iraqi, USSR Officials Meet in IPU Meetings

JN271658 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Helsinki, 27 Apr (INA) — Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, head of the Iraqi National Assembly delegation to the IPU spring meeting, currently convening here, has met with Vitaliy Ruben, chairman of the Council of Nationalities of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the head of the USSR delegation to the IPU meetings.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed current international problems and the Iraq-Iran war. Hammudi stressed Iraq's desire to proceed on the path of an honorable and just peace to safeguard the rights of the two parties and their national sovereignty, to avoid any interference in domestic affairs, and to settle the dispute by peaceful means.

Ruben expressed support for the efforts that are underway to end the war between Iraq and Iran and to settle the problems between the two countries through negotiations.

Sa'dun Shakir Confers With CSSR Official 27 Apr

JN271156 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0936 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA) — Sa'dun Shakir, Revolution Command Council member and minister of interior, met here today with a Czechoslovak delegation led by Major General Dr (Jirney), deputy interior minister.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and means to promote cooperation between their two ministries.

President Receives Jordanian Envoy, Message

JN271130 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received an oral message from Jordan's King Husayn, dealing with the Jordanian-Palestinian talks and the current Arab situation. The message was delivered by Jordanian Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah when President Saddam Husayn received him here today.

The meeting was attended by Khalid 'Abd al-Mun'im, director of the presidential office; Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for-foreign affairs and acting foreign minister; and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

They discussed joint cooperation in the informational field.

The Iraqi minister spoke highly of the positions of Jordan's people and government, stressing that Iraq is proud of these stands, which bolster the ties of Arab fraternity.

Information Ministers Meet

JN272047 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] This evening Minister of Culture and Information Latif Nusayyif Jasim received his visiting Jordanian counterpart 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah.

Moroccan Envoy Arrives in Amman With Message

JN280703 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Text] Ahmed Bensouda, adviser to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, arrived in Amman last night on a short visit to Jordan during which he will deliver a message to His Majesty King Husayn from his Brother King Hassan II.

He was received at Amman Airport by Court Minister 'Amir Khammash, the Moroccan ambassador, embassy staff, and the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Islamic Group, USSR Ambassador Discuss Afghanistan

JN270906 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Apr 83 p 19

[Text] Amman, SAWT ASH-SHA'B — A delegation from the Islamic Organizations Council led by its Secretary General 'Abd al-Latif as-Subayhi yesterday met with USSR Ambassador Rafik Nishanov at the USSR Embassy in Amman.

The dialogue which took place between the ambassador and the delegation focused on two main subjects: the termination of the Iraqi-Iranian war and the USSR's participation in finding a solution to the Afghan question. The Islamic delegation handed the ambassador a memorandum in this regard.

The memorandum proposed the formation of a committee from the nonaligned countries with the approval of the USSR and the Jidda-based Islamic Conference Organization in order to hold a referendum by which the Afghan people can decide their destiny and choose the government they deem fit, provided this elected government adheres to nonaligned principles, complete neutrality, and excellent normal relations with the USSR. It should also pledge not to allow any other country to use its territory for inflicting harm on the USSR.

After the meeting As-Subayhi said that the USSR ambassador responded positively to the proposal and promised to submit it to his government as soon as possible. The ambassador indicated that the destructive Iraqi-Iranian war, which weakens the Arab and Islamic countries and exhausts their energies, benefits only Zionism and colonialism.

During the meeting, the USSR ambassador stressed that his government has no ambitions in Afghanistan, adding that it received 14 requests to intervene. He also expressed his country's readiness to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan once the present Afghan Government asks for their withdrawal and once an end is put to foreign interference in Afghanistan's affairs by some foreign countries which supply the fighters there with funds and weapons.

The USSR ambassador pointed out that the talks held in Geneva at the beginning of this month between the Afghan and Pakistani Governments had made some progress toward solving the crisis and that the talks will be resumed in June. He said that his country welcomes any talks between Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran or any bilateral talks.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B Urges U.S. Recognition of PLO

JN271034 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "What Is Required Is Recognition of the Palestinian Reality," SAWT ASH-SHA'B says: It is obvious that failure to find a settlement in Lebanon and the U.S. concern to lead the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations to a satisfactory conclusion are the focus of the U.S. secretary of state's current visit to the region.

The U.S. Administration's inclination to enter directly into a frank dialogue with all sides concerned with the Middle East problem on the Lebanese issue and other issues, shows that U.S. diplomacy is seriously trying to overcome recent events which obstructed the U.S. settlement plan for the region represented by the suspension of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks on the Reagan peace plan; the failure, so far, of the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations; the U.S. Embassy bombing in Beirut, with all its implications; and the clear attempt to escalate the military situation between Syria and Israel to again draw attention to the Syrian role in the settlement. It seems that the United States wants to surmount these aspects of the situation to explore the dimensions and possibilities of a comprehensive settlement, despite the setbacks to its position and efforts.

The paper adds: Washington's insistence on giving momentum to the prospects for a comprehensive settlement and directly participating in finding solutions to the region's problems, should have been linked with new proposals and ideas to facilitate the participation of all concerned parties, including the Palestinians, in the dialogue process so as to expand the circle of a comprehensive settlement and improve its chances of success. As His Majesty King Husayn affirmed in his message to President Reagan, the U.S. stance on the subject of recognition of the PLO has helped to complicate the situation and obstruct the settlement opportunities presently available. The U.S. secretary of state's visit in these particular circumstances reveals a vast difference in viewpoints not only between Lebanon and Israel, but also between Washington and Tel Aviv on the settlement issues. The United States is called upon to adopt a more balanced and less biased stance toward the participation of the Palestinians and their rights.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: The essence of a settlement is based on recognition of the Palestinian reality and not on commitment to the intransigent Israeli stance toward this fact. The Palestinian right in both its dimensions — the land and the people — is the basis of the conflict from which other regional issues and problems have stemmed. The issues of Lebanon, the Golan, and Sinai stemmed from this main issue in the region. Unless U.S. policy reaches a moderate, balanced, and unbiased stance to enable it to respect the Palestinian reality, the present U.S. policies will remain shorter than the required survival rope needed to save the peace option from drowning.

AR-RA'Y Examines 'Difficulties' Facing Shultz

JN271253 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Difficult State in Shultz' Mission," AR-RA'Y says: It seems that a difficult stage is awaiting the Shultz mission in Israel, despite the vague promises by Israeli circles that the U.S. secretary will, as far as possible, get their cooperation. The difficulties of this stage are indicated by:

1. The analysis which was presented by the Israeli radio yesterday and in which it asserted that Israel will not give in to Shultz on any demand which it believes contradicts its security even if this results in tension in Israeli-U.S. relations.

2. The violent attack which was launched by Israeli circles against the statements made by Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, statements which generally did not go beyond the mission that Shultz came to achieve: namely guaranteeing a comprehensive withdrawal from Lebanon while safeguarding complete Lebanese sovereignty. The Israeli circles described these statements as unwarranted. These circles attacked the Lebanese president personally by saying that he is barely able to rule East Beirut.

3. Israel's rejection of the statements by Francis Pym, UK secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, in which he called for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon and the freezing of settlements in the Palestinian land to facilitate the establishment of peace in the region. It is obvious that this call agrees, in the first part at least, with Shultz' mission. The rejection was officially communicated to the UK ambassador in Tel Aviv.

4. Israel's provocative acts in Al-Biqa' which led to the exchange of fire with the Syrian forces while Shultz was holding the first round of talks in Cairo yesterday. It is as if Israel wanted to prove through provocations its intention to continue its aggressive practices regardless of who the envoy in the region is.

In light of these difficulties, one wonders about the ideas Shultz is bringing to Israel and their influence on changing the old Israeli strategy of establishing hegemony over Lebanon. Moreover, it is not unlikely that Israel will play tug of war with the Shultz mission to prolong and delay it.

AR-RA'Y concludes: In any case, we must remember that the U.S. secretary's mission is not in itself evidence of U.S. credibility. The important thing is its results. Until the results of the mission are known, the ball will remain in the U.S. court and the U.S. Administration will remain responsible for the time factor.

Army Commander Receives U.S. Defense Official

JN271325 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Staff Lieutenant General Ash-Sharif Zayd Ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, received at his office this morning Richard Armitage, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense, and the accompanying delegation now visiting Jordan for the semi-annual meetings now taking place between Jordan and the U.S. within the framework of studying the defense needs of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Armitage and the accompanying delegation arrived in Jordan last night. They were received at the airport by Major General Fathi Abu Talib, chief of staff; a number of senior ranking officers of the Armed Forces; and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman.

BRIEFS

JORDAN RECEIVES SAUDI LOAN — The Jordanian Government and the Saudi Development Fund signed an agreement today under which Jordan is to receive a loan worth 12 and 1/2 million Jordanian dinars from the fund. [Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Apr 83 JN]

Al-Jumayyil Chairs Weekly Cabinet Meeting

NC271912 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] The weekly Cabinet meeting, which was chaired by President Amin al-Jumayyil at 1800 tonight, ended a short while ago. Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan did not attend because of his presence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

President al-Jumayyil drew the Cabinet's attention to the delicate stage through which Lebanon is passing vis-a-vis the negotiations which aim at the realization of the withdrawal of all the non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. He affirmed that the negotiations are still oscillating in place because Lebanon firmly adheres to the principles of full national sovereignty whereas Israel insists on certain security arrangements which it considers essential for the protection of its northern border.

President al-Jumayyil explained that the United States has decided to send its secretary of state to the area to help the parties to the negotiations overcome the obstacles and step up the negotiations. He said: We all hope that Secretary of State Shultz will be able to find the appropriate solution to guarantee Lebanese sovereignty and provide a reasonable means for guaranteeing Israel's security.

President al-Jumayyil praised the positive stands which Egyptian President Husni Mubarak adopted during the discussions he held with Secretary of State Shultz in Cairo. He declared that the visit of Prime Minister al-Wazzan to Saudi Arabia and his meeting with the Saudi monarch falls within the framework of studying the progress of the negotiations and securing the necessary support for the Lebanese stand in the battle for the restoration of Lebanon's full sovereignty.

In conclusion, President al-Jumayyil said: The negotiations which lebanon is holding are neither easy nor traditional. It requires a unification of the Lebanese ranks and position to confront the challenges facing us as Lebanese people and as a homeland.

The president of the republic praised today's positive gesture by the Chamber of Deputies which unanimously supported the government's actions and stands at the negotiations. He expressed his hope that this gesture will not be confined to officialdom only but that it will include the popular framework because we will need to mobilize the popular resources to restore the image of Lebanon and to rebuild it.

Al-Wazzan Returns From Saudi Arabia 27 April

NC271936 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil tonight met with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan in the presence of Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni to become acquainted with the results of the discussions Prime Minister al-Wazzan and his delegation held with the Saudi monarch in Riyadh today. The prime minister held discussions with the Saudi monarch on the latest developments in Lebanon.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan and the delegation accompanying him returned to Beirut tonight. Immediately on his arrival, the prime minister went to the Presidential Palace.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan made the following statement at Beirut airport: We have returned from the dear Kingdom with our hearts filled with the full understanding we sensed for all our issues and the difficulties we are confronting. We sensed a permanent readiness to support Lebanon in all fields.

We naturally went to the kingdom as part of a move which we wish to carry out under these difficult, delicate, and dangerous circumstances. The good response we sensed among our brothers in Saudi Arabia encourages us to proceed forward, always with the aim of serving Lebanon's interests and saving it.

Answering a question, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: His Majesty King Fahd's message to Lebanon is one of continuous love since the start of the events in Lebanon. He is with Lebanon with his heart and all his capabilities. This is a message which we carry to Lebanon and to the head of the Lebanese regime.

Regarding Secretary Shultz' visit to Lebanon, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: We expect every move to result in further upholding right and justice. We desire this from all those who are able, let alone a state like the United States.

Report on Saudi Talks

NC280845 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan held a plenary working meeting with King Fahd during which they reviewed the general situation in Lebanon and in the area, the phases of the negotiations among Lebanon, the United States, and Israel and the obstacles that are being encountered in reaching the desired goals.

Later, King Fahd and Prime Minister al-Wazzan met alone. At this 1-hour meeting, a comprehensive and detailed discussion was held on the current situation and Lebanon's future vision. The talks also dealt with providing Saudi support to Lebanon in all fields, particularly political support, considering the Saudi Kingdom's position with the United States and the economic relations between them.

In this framework, Prime Minister al-Wazzan outlined the stances and redlines which President al-Jumayyil declared in his interview with members of the Press Syndicate Council, affirming that Lebanon cannot give up these lines or depart from the principles which safeguard its sovereignty, integrity, dignity, and national interests.

The talks also dealt in detail with all points of the tripartite negotiations, particularly the points of agreement and disagreement and those which are still being discussed.

At the separate meeting, a review was made of the mutual subjects and questions between the two countries, particularly those connected with Lebanese exports to Saudi Arabia. King

Fahd expressed special interest in this subject and asked his finance minister to personally attend to the matter.

The Saudi ruler deferred his departure to Jidda to meet with Prime Minister al-Wazzan, indicating his interest in the talks with the prime minister and in the situation in Lebanon.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan has stated: As expected, we found complete understanding and interest in our demands from King Fahd and his officials. Our demands are known. These are demands for the sovereignty and rights of our country. We hope for a good response from these consultations and from the stances we sensed in King Fahd.

In the plane that carried Prime Minister al-Wazzan and the delegation accompanying him back to Beirut, the prime minister said: The difficult times which we are passing through provide that we must seize every opportunity we deem useful to ensure the most possible success for our efforts in serving our homeland Lebanon.

He added: As usual, we found generosity in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, who during our ordeal was always by Lebanon's side. We recall in particular those dark days — the days of Beirut's ordeal — when through his efforts he contributed to ending the siege of Beirut and ensuring Beirut's salvation. Today we think of his majesty and his efforts, which we see in the construction activity, the lighting of Beirut's streets, the paving of sidewalks, the clearing of rubble and the contributions to all fields of construction and development. We also took the opportunity to discuss various questions outside the framework of the negotiations. These were related to our economic relations and Lebanese exports to Saudi Arabia so that these goods may be imported without obstacles as sometimes happens. This is important for our economy. There is no doubt that there will be a positive result if facilities are provided.

Chamber of Deputies Adopts Support Resolution

NC271242 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] At about 1100 today, the Chamber of Deputies meeting under the chairmanship of Speaker Kamil al-As'ad resumed the debate on the government's policy in a secret session.

The government was represented by Deputy Prime Minister Elie Salim and Ministers 'Sam Khuri, Roger Shaykhani, 'Adil Hamiyah, Ibrahim Halawah, 'Adnan Muruwwah, and George Afram. The session was attended by 52 deputies.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent at Mansur Palace reports that the debate focused on the tripartite negotiations and the current situation in Lebanon.

The session ended at 1310. It was announced that the Chamber of Deputies adopted a resolution supporting the government and the Lebanese negotiator.

Chamber Resolution

NC271555 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] At the conclusion of the Chamber of Deputies secret session, which continued for 2 consecutive days and during which the deputies debated the government's policy in detail, the Chamber adopted the following important resolution:

After holding a closed session under the chairmanship of Speaker Kam[illegible] al-As'ad on Tuesday and Wednesday, 26 and 27 April [illegible]3; after hearing the statements by the prime minister and foreign minister; after debating the current situation, the progress of the Lebanese crisis, and the current negotiations; and in light of the stand which his Excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil recently expressed, the Chamber of Deputies declares the following:

1. The unity of the Lebanese people in confronting the fateful challenge is the main basis and guarantee for the homeland's victory and safety.

2. It announces solidarity with the inclination [tawjjuh] of the president of the republic on the basis of the frank national principles and stands he has adopted and proclaimed and requests the government to continue to adhere to them until the realization of the withdrawal of all the non-Lebanese armed forces from all Lebanese territory and the imposition of the state's authority and the rule of the one law.

3. It supports the government's position in the negotiations — a position representing the Lebanese people's will and which is based on sovereignty, justice, and national dignity.

Army Takes Custody of Al-Jumayyil Suspect

NC262123 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Apr 83

[Text] Habib ash-Shartuni, the murderer of martyr President Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil, has stated that what he did falls within the framework of the war in Lebanon and that he is aware that the problem will not be solved by the assassination of one person but that there are factors linked to political events in Lebanon, including time factors.

Ash-Shartuni admitted that he has been a member of the Syrian Nationalist Party since 1977 and that the assassination decision was made 2 months before the operation and after a party official had convinced him of the need to assassinate the martyr president following the Israeli invasion, because he was not convinced about carrying out the assassination before the invasion.

The Lebanese Army this evening took custody of ash-Shartuni, as well as (Joseph Kavivian) and Nabil Sha'ya, who are responsible for the murder of 'Inayah Bashir al-Jumayyil [Bashir al-Jumayyil's daughter]; Faysal and Faruq al-Hashim, who are responsible for the explosions in al-Ashrafiyah and the mountain; and Khoren Wartanian, who is responsible for the explosion incident in Sinn al-Fil.

The criminals admitted the charges brought against them and all of them, except ash-Shartuni, said they have repented for what they had done and that they are prepared to accept any punishment meted out to them.

Haddad on Harassment of His Army Personnel
NC270835 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Commander of free Lebanon Major Haddad has stated the following:

1. Some Lebanese Army roadblocks in the Beirut area are still harassing members of the free Lebanon army by assaulting and arbitrarily detaining them without justification.

We are confident that such actions are isolated ones taken by Army personnel who are not loyal to Lebanon. However, if such actions are not immediately remedied by the appropriate officials, they will lead to serious consequences that are not in the interests of anyone. We must mention that the army of free Lebanon includes citizens of all Lebanon and is loyal only to Lebanon. When the army fought and offered sacrifices for the sake of Lebanon's legitimacy and sovereignty, others, including those now manning roadblocks in Beirut, were attacking legitimacy and tearing up the Lebanese flag, which is the symbol of Lebanon's glory and sovereignty. We also point out that the army of free Lebanon provides protection and various facilities to various members of the Lebanese Army in free Lebanon without discrimination, because they are regarded as a part of the army of free Lebanon. We hope that matters will be resolved at roadblocks to avoid any harm which might arise in the future and that those detained are immediately released.

2. On the night of 25 April there was an armed attack for the first time on one of our military vehicles north of Al-Qir'awn. Fortunately no one was hurt.

On this occasion we remind everybody that the army of free Lebanon is composed of the sons of the various townships in the south and western Al-Biqa' without exception. The army is seriously working to mend the wounds and unite the hearts. We do not wish to harm any of the inhabitants of the area. On the contrary, we are ensuring protection for all. However, if such actions are repeated — which we hope not — we will be compelled to adopt certain measures. We regard those carrying out such actions as Lebanese, and they cannot carry out such actions without the sympathy and support of nearby townships. Therefore, we hope that every township will work to prevent such actions in the future to safeguard the interests of all.

VOL Reports on Al-Biqa', Upper al-Matn
NC271402 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] A state of tension prevails in the Al-Biqa' and Upper al-Matn areas because of the military escalation by the Syrian, Palestinian, and Israeli forces. According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon radio, the Syrian forces have deployed about 700 soldiers on the Al-Hammarah-As-Suwayri-Al-Masna' axis along with missile batteries and heavy artillery. Moreover, Soviet experts have been seen moving between the missile emplacements and the missile bases installed on the aforementioned axis.

The information further indicates that during the past 48 hours, the Syrian forces deployed a unit [katibah] of tanks and heavy armored cars to the vicinity of the township of Hazzirta, which is located above the area of Qa' ar-Rim. This has created a state of anxiety and fear among the citizens. The Syrian forces have subjected passersby to meticulous searches on the Zahlah-Duhur ash-Shuwayr Road. At the same time, a state of noticeable tension prevails in Al-Biqa', particularly on the confrontation lines, which has negatively affected general movement.

Other information received by the Voice of Lebanon Radio indicates that six Syrian bulldozers are digging trenches in the Turbul-Kafr Zabad area, where tank transporters and heavy vehicles have been seen.

Moreover, the Syrian forces have brought in armed members of the Palestinian Liberation Army dressed in the uniforms of the special units in two separate convoys. One convoy proceeded from Qabb Ilyas Road and the other to Sawfar and Dahr al-Baydar, where the two convoys met this morning.

The Voice of Lebanon has also learned that suspicious military training is taking place in the Shanta Camp in An-Nabi Shit, in the Ba'labakk area. In addition, it has been reported that the Iranian revolution guards are implementing a compulsory enlistment program.

Furthermore, Arab diplomatic information disclosed in Beirut indicates that all the Palestinian forces which went to Tunisia, Cyprus, and Yemen arrived in the Al-Biqa' area some time ago. This information has been confirmed by Lebanese security sources.

A Voice of Lebanon Radio correspondent has reported that a 155-mm shell has fallen on the Barr Ilyas plain and that it was fired from the Al-Baruk Mountains, where the Syrians are deployed.

Information from Ash-Shuf indicates that a group calling itself the Abu Ibrahim Group is deployed on a hill overlooking the township of (Wadi Binhlayh) and is directing sniper fire at the township.

The Israelis have addressed a warning, which ends tomorrow, to members of the Socialist Party in the Ash-Shuf township of Niha because of some of their practices, including disturbing the security situation.

The Socialists have been directing sniper fire at Bsaba and Kafr Shima since early today, have cut the International Highway in 'Alayh and have disrupted movement in the town. The road of the Kafr Him in Ash-Shuf remains perilous because of the Socialist sniper fire.

VOL 29 April Report

NC281258 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Text] According to information available to Voice of Lebanon, a large number of additional Syrian vehicles have entered 'Ammiq and Qabb Ilyas [in Al-Biqa'] via Homs [in Syria] and have spread out close to the Anti-Lebanon mountains. The vehicles are backed by an anti-armor battalion.

Similar reinforcements have been seen in the Dayr Zannun area. They are accompanied by trucks which operate as operations and communications networks with Syria. Moreover, nine radar vehicles have entered the Al-Biqa' area, where Bulgarian, East German, and Soviet experts are working with the Syrians.

RFL Reports Soviet Sub Base in Tartus, Syria

NC280724 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Excerpt] According to reports from Damascus, the Soviet Union has set up a submarine base at the Syrian port of Tartus. Two Soviet submarines, in addition to other Soviet naval units, are permanently stationed at the port.

Booby-Trapped Cars Being Prepared in North

NC280715 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 28Apr 83

[Text] Groups in northern Lebanon loyal to foreign organizations and quarters are preparing 17 booby-trapped vehicles for detonation in Beirut. These groups have put license plates identical to those of some members of the Chamber of Deputies and the Public Security Directorate on the vehicles in order to camouflage them.

At-Turkumani Executed by Resistance Front

NC271250 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1130GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] The Lebanese National Resistance Front has claimed responsibility for the execution of Ahmad at-Turkumani after his association with the Israeli enemy intelligence was proved.

Franjiyah Comments on Forthcoming Shultz Visit

NC271029 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0723 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Excerpts] In the weekly press conference he held at his palace in Zgharta yesterday morning, [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah spoke about the various developments in the Lebanese arena.

At the start of his press conference, Franjiyah said: We expect U.S. Secretary of State Shultz to visit this week. We had hoped that this visit would be preceded by one of two things: either a comprehensive unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli enemy from Lebanese territory or an advance declaration of the severance of all U.S. aid — material or military — to this insolent enemy. Regretfully, he will come to us before either of these measures has been taken.

However, we welcome him and wish him success in his mission. We hope that he will come with an open mind unaffected by the Zionist information media in his country. We hope that before arriving, he will have acquainted himself with the stance from which there will be no retreat — the stance that was announced by his excellency the president. We also hope that he is familiar with the history of those whom he will be meeting in Israel and at least with the terrorist act of the blowing up of the King David Hotel [in Jerusalem] by the hands of those whose hands he will be shaking when he arrives in Palestine so he can draw the attention of his president, Mr Reagan, when he returns to the fact that he refuses to deal with the organization [PLO], because it is a terrorist organization, but that the Palestinian terror began when a people came to Palestine who wanted to steal it from its owners. If terrorism by stealth is a recognized action, it would be more appropriate to recognize terrorism to regain the stolen land. We draw the attention of his excellency, the U.S. secretary of state, to the fact that calls for the recognition of Israel is a matter that can be discussed, but can his excellency, the secretary, define for us the borders of the state for which recognition is demanded?

The United States has pledged to Israel that it guarantees its entity and it has also pledged to Lebanon that it guarantees the safety of its territory and people. We allow ourselves to ask his excellency, the secretary: How could your predecessor approve of the invasion of Lebanon with U.S. weapons, and after the invasion why didn't his excellency issue any kind of denunciation or protest or take a serious action to stop this invasion?

Furthermore, several months after the invasion the allocated sums by the U.S. Treasury were increased instead of being completely cancelled.

At our latest press conference we deduced from the blowing up of the U.S. Embassy building by Israel that it was a punishment for the U.S. President after saying that he was more determined than before to restore freedom and security to Lebanon. The reaction to this by the Israeli enemy was the blowing up of the U.S. Embassy as if the enemy wanted to prove to the U.S. President that Israel is the greatest state in the world

Yasin, minister of economy and foreign trade, the Romanian ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

The Romanian minister will hold talks with Syrian officials on the promotion of economic relations and trade exchange between the two countries.

Border Tensions Now Increasing With Syria

Missiles in Al-Biqa'

TA271350 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1345 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] The Christian Voice of Lebanon station has reported that the Syrians have introduced new antiaircraft missiles into the Al-Biqa' during the past few hours. The report said that the missiles were introduced into the area on the Lebanese-Syrian border.

People Fleeing Shtawrah

TA271247 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1243 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has reported that the Syrians are continuing to dispatch forces to the Al-Biqa' region in Lebanon to face the IDF lines. Western correspondents in Shtawrah along the Beirut-Damascus highway have spotted local inhabitants fleeing for fear of a conflagration and the eruption of battles between Syria and Israel.

Ministry Official Blames Syria for Failed Talks

TA281021 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Text] A senior official in the Israeli Foreign Ministry said that it was Syrian pressure on Lebanon which caused the deadlock in the talks about the withdrawal of the foreign forces. The official said he believes that Syria will ultimately agree to pull its forces out of Lebanon if Israel does so too. However, this will be only in return for a very high price they will exact from the Lebanese. In the opinion of this official, Syria wants to maintain its influence in Lebanon.

Shultz Continues Peace Efforts in Jerusalem

Shultz Comments on Negotiations

TA272113 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has said that the time has come to solve the remaining problems in the negotiations over Lebanon, since in all negotiations, he said, there must be a compromise. The dangers involved in failure are much greater than any danger stemming from agreement, Shultz added. He stressed that if the negotiations over Lebanon are concluded successfully, one of the results will be the expansion of Israel's peace ties with its neighbors. The peace process is continuing, Shultz said. President Reagan is committed to act in cooperation with Israel toward peace. The U.S. Secretary of State was speaking at a dinner in his honor at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem.

His counterpart Yitzhaq Shamir emphasized that there is agreement between Israel and the United States that the security of Israel's northern border must be ensured. Both sides also agree that Lebanon must be independent and sovereign, and that all foreign forces must withdraw from it. Lebanon must be allowed to choose its own way of life. However, that can only come about in an atmosphere of peace and good-neighborly relations between it and Israel.

Shultz-Shamir Meeting

TA271549 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] In a short while, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is to meet with Prime Minister Menahem Begin. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer is at the prime minister's office:

[Schiffer — live] The meeting between the prime minister and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will be the first in a series of three talks between the two men. This evening the matters still in dispute between Israel and Lebanon will be presented; tomorrow morning they will hold a private meeting; and on Friday, when Shultz returns from a short visit to Beirut, they will hold a decisive meeting.

Earlier this afternoon, the U.S. secretary of state met with his counterpart Yitzhaq Shamir and the team negotiating a settlement in Lebanon, and the matters still in dispute between Israel and Lebanon were discussed at that meeting. Shultz listened throughout, asked questions and took notes, but did not state his position.

These are the matters that were raised in Shamir's talk with Shultz:

First, Major Sa'd Haddad: The defense minister's aide, Major General Avraham Tamir, analyzed this matter, saying that Haddad had succeeded in creating a structure capable of preserving and ensuring security in southern Lebanon. Israel's credibility with respect to figures in the Arab world is being tested here, therefore Israel cannot make concessions on Haddad. Another problem is the presence of UNIFIL units near the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon. Another is the joint supervision teams — the Lebanese had agreed to these, but later retracted their agreement. Israel is now asking Shultz to intervene and deal with this matter as well.

The Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, Elyaqim Rubinstein, spoke about the economic boycott laws which Lebanon is party to, and which Israel wants rescinded. Another problem: Israel wants to include in the settlement with Lebanon open and official recognition of Israel by Lebanon. Other problems are liaison officers and the intelligence links between the two countries.

In the background is concern over the events in Syria. There is no doubt that Shultz, when he meets Begin shortly, will hear details about Israel's position on this subject. Israel has already said that it has no intention of attacking Syria. However, the events in Lebanon among the Syrian forces are definitely a source of concern here. A high-level political source told me a short while ago that these movements by the Syrian army may be intended to signal to the United States that without them there will be no agreement.

Official Source Says Shultz Visit Not Discussed

JN271743 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1735 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] In reply to a question by SANA on the reports and rumors about a visit by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to Syria, an official source has stated the following:

The issue of George Shultz' visit to Syria has not been discussed and no contacts were held in this respect. Therefore, no official Syrian statement was issued on this subject.

Syria's 'Steadfastness' Against Zionism Hailed

JN271904 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Palestine broadcast: From "On the Events" program]

[Text] Brothers on the road to revolution and liberation: Lebanese reports say that the Zionist forces in Al-Biqa' have reached the maximum degree of readiness to launch the aggression. It is no coincidence that this development has taken place at the same time as U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' arrival in the region. Shultz met with Anwar as-Sadat's successors in the ruling regime in Cairo, then left for Tel Aviv to meet with Hitler's orphans, the Zionist war criminals such as Menahem Begin and Shamir.

If Shultz claims that he comes to the region to save the stumbling talks on the withdrawal from Lebanon, then the degree of the Israeli mobilization of troops in Al-Biqa' refutes the U.S. Administration's claims. The recent decisions of this administration on meeting Israel's need for weapons and aid also refute this claim. The meeting of the Camp David parties is taking place to put the final touches on the premeditated act of aggression with which Israel has been entrusted. The U.S. Marines also were massed in the eastern Mediterranean to assist in carrying it out.

The United States, which has failed until now to impose its scheme on the region due to the Syrian steadfastness in the face of this scheme, is attempting to impose it through the new Zionist aggression. Undoubtedly, everyone is aware of the serious and fateful results of the expected battle.

The Syrian forces, which are standing fast against the Zionist invasion, are not only the Arabs' frontline in the face of this invasion, but also are the Arabs' only trench in the face of the limitless Zionist ambitions. Therefore, Syrian steadfastness in this battle will be not merely a Syrian victory, but also a comprehensive Syrian-Palestinian-Arab one. This indicates the importance of the Arabs' meeting in the steadfastness position. It also explains the extreme seriousness of the humiliating and conspiratorial policies adopted by some who have come to believe that, through the United States, they are employing Israel to serve their private interests and privileges in confronting the Arab forces of progress and liberation. They also ignore the seriousness of the Zionist invasion on the pan-Arab destiny, the destiny of all groups and classes of this nation without exception.

Press Condemns Israeli Military 'Provocations'

JN280830 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Press review]

[Text] Today's papers highlight in banner headlines on the front page the Zionist military provocative attempts, and the intensive buildup in Al-Biqa' in preparation for launching an offensive against Syria.

In its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: The Zionist enemy carried out a series of military provocations over the past 2 days along the contact lines in Al-Biqa'. The timing of these provocations is synchronous with the outset of George Shultz' tour of the region. It does not take much effort for people near and far to unearth the principal goal of this tour.

Actually, this comes as no surprise to us since we have become accustomed to the U.S. State Department — through the repeated tours of its envoys in recent years — to the fact that the target behind getting closer to the region's events has always had a negative impact on the Arabs in terms of killing, destruction, and ruination. Likewise, every U.S. tour in the name of settlements and peace plans has always been followed by Zionist wars, the bombardment of towns and villages, and the murder of children and old people.

We have learned lessons from the well-known shuttles of Kissinger, Cyrus Vance, and Haig. The image this time is no different. George Shultz' tour, according to all indications, is not ambigious but is still impossible.

Continuing its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: We recollect that Haig, the former U.S. secretary of state, was the guest of the region this time last year on a mission to pacify the tense situation in and around Lebanon. The same description is being used this time for Shultz' current tour. Under this cover, the former U.S. secretary of state shuttled among various capitals concealing, as was revealed later, the dossier of the Zionist aggression against Lebanon. Everyone knows that shortly after Haig's departure Israel began its invasion, and Syria found itself compelled to perform its pan-Arab duty in defense of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples at a time when Syria had not yet achieved the aspired balance of power with the enemy, which is being fed by the United States with the most sophisticated and effective weapons. Despite the ferociousness of the aggression which ruined the greater part of Lebanon, the final results were not in favor of Tel Aviv, as Washington had hoped.

In conclusion, AL-BA'TH says: In any case, numerous facts of the struggle equations which govern this sensitive region were crystalized by the events of last year. These facts — or at least some of them — should be realized by U.S. diplomats.

They include, among other things, the fact that Syria will not remain silent over the ceaseless Israeli-U.S. provocations, nor will it allow the increasing Zionist greed to play havoc with its security. Syria has the power to defend itself and determine the level and course of the battle should the enemy commit another

reckless aggression. The option of martyrdom or victory with which Syria waged the October 1973 war is its present option and in every battle dictated by the pan-Arab duty and responsibility.

TISHRIN writes the following comment, headlined: "The Objectives of the Aggression:"

For the second day running, the Israeli forces carried out provocative attempts to set up fortifications in the areas facing our forces in Lebanon's Al-Biqa'. It appears that behind its aggressive acts, Israel seeks to launch an offensive against Syria and its armed forces, particularly since Begin yesterday revealed his intention when he claimed that the Syrians are reinforcing their frontline positions, and that this step compels Israel to take precautionary measures. Though Begin at the same time claimed that Israel does not intend to attack Syria, this claim falls within the context of claims, deceptions, and other propaganda measures that precede every aggression.

TISHRIN adds: It is most likely that Israel's aim behind the setting up of fortifications is to distract attention from its intensive material preparations to launch the aggression, particularly in terms of the military buildup. It is also very likely that Israel might exploit these preparations which coincide with George Shultz' tour of the region.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: Our brave armed forces' confrontation of the enemy attempts to erect fortifications in Lebanon implies a more significant meaning than confrontation. It clearly means that Syria will not allow the enemy forces to entrench their occupation in Lebanon, nor will it allow the enemy forces to use Lebanon as a staging base for their aggression. Needless to say, Syria's stand is principled and irrevocable; one over which there can be no bargaining.

Iskandar Scores Israeli, U.S. Role in Mideast

PM271156 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 22 Apr 83 pp 1, 11

[SANA report: "Information Minister Says Israel Blew Up U.S. Embassy"]

[Excerpts] Damascus [no date given] — Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar received the UN press delegation in his office at midday yesterday. He explained the racist and expansionist nature of Israel and its Zionist ideology. He also said: U.S. policy in the Middle East is biased and unbalanced. This policy of support for Israeli occupation of Arab territory, encouragement of the Israeli invaders, and supply of the best arms to the Israeli invaders is a policy against peace in the Middle East.

Ahmad Iskandar added: We in Syria are interested in Arab solidarity, which adds to our strength in the face of the Israeli occupation forces and their protectors, and unites our Arab countries in defense of the land, dignity, and usurped rights.The information minister then spoke about the barbaric Israeli invasion of Lebanon. He called for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli invasion forces from all Lebanese territory. He added: Nobody in the whole wide world can secure a reward for the aggressor.

In conclusion, the information minister underscored the terrorist, murderous, and subversive character of the Israeli government, demonstrated by what it did in Beirut when it committed the Sabra and Shatila massacres, and recently when it blew up the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. He urged the international community to support the just Arab cause, confront Israeli terrorism, and punish the Israeli Government for its crimes.

Al-Asad Receives Solidarity Message From Castro

JN271447 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Damascus, 27 Apr (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad has received a written message from Cuban President Fidel Castro affirming Cuba's solidarity with Syria in confronting the aggressive U.S.-Israeli expansionist policy. Castro said that Syria, which represents the decisive factor in confronting an aggressive, expansionist policy which is hostile to the Arabs, can always and forever rely on Cuba's solidarity during the current circumstances, and even more crucial ones.

Minister Yasin Receives Iranian Minister 27 Apr

JN271452 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Damascus, 27 Apr (SANA) — Dr Salim Yasin, minister of economy and foreign trade, received here today Iranian Commerce Minister Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi-Mosalman and his accompanying delegation, who are currently on a short visit to Syria.

The two sides held a working session during which they reviewed the agreement between them on consumer goods, exchange, and trade. They also discussed means of promoting trade between the two countries. The two sides agreed on cooperation in overland and maritime transport, and in telecommunications.

Minister, Delegation Leave

JN271457 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Damascus, 27 Apr (SANA) — Iranian Commerce Minister Habibollah 'Asqar-Owladi-Mosalman and his accompanying delegation left Damascus for home this afternoon following a brief visit to Syria during which he discussed developing and promoting economic and trade relations between Syria and Iran.

Dr Salim Yasin, minister of economy and foreign trade, and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus and his staff saw the Iranian minister off at Damascus airport.

Romanian Trade Minister, Delegation Visit

JN271432 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Damascus, 27 Apr (SANA) — Vasile Pungan, Romanian minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, and his accompanying delegation, arrived in Damascus at 1200 today on a week-long visit to Syria.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Salim

In the meantime, another political source has assessed that Shultz is beginning his mission and there is indeed a chance that he will carry it out successfully and help finalize the principles of the settlement between Israel and Lebanon.

Shamir Proposal Detailed

TA280558 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Report on Shultz' visit to Israel by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer in the studio]

[Excerpts] While Shultz spoke of the need for compromise, the Israeli side wanted to discuss the matter of increased Soviet involvement in Syria and Lebanon, with the hope of reaching wide agreement on this. The data presented by IDF Intelligence Branch head Major General Ehud Baraq to the U.S. entourage compelled the Americans to treat the issue seriously. It was revealed that more than 4,000 Soviet advisers are stationed on the forward line and are active in Syria and in Lebanon. MIG-23 and MIG-25 planes, flown by Soviet pilots, and B-8 helicopters, equipped with electronic warfare means, are seen in Syrian skies. Some 400,000 soldiers with 800 T-72 tanks are preoccupied with preparations for what the Syrians call strategic balance with Israel. Two systems of SAM-5 batteries, equipped with sophisticated communications systems which make possible direct contact with Moscow, have recently been set up in northern Syria.

The prime minister and defense minister believe that the Soviet danger is not posed only to Israel but also to Jo. dan, Lebanon, and the United States. Minister Arens believes that the Syrians may launch hostilities against Israel as a result of increased Soviet involvement. In other words, all this means an appeal to the United States to reach an understanding and stop pressuring Israel in view of the common danger.

As for the negotiations with Lebanon, in the opinion of Foreign Minister Shamir, nine problems still remain to be resolved: Major Sa'd Haddad's status, UNIFIL's presence in the security zone, the joint supervisory teams, implementing normalization, the Arab boycott rules, the liaison officers in Beirut, recognition of Israel, the intelligence ties, and the question as to who will sign the agreement.

In the course of Shultz' visit, the foreign minister may submit to his U.S. counterpart a proposal for a Israeli-U.S. agreement which will guarantee the arrangements in Lebanon. The following are the main points of the agreement which is 2 pages long:

The two countries agree that it will be impossible to reopen for discussion the conclusions reached with Lebanon even if the Syrians demand [yidreshu] this. The exit of the foreign forces will be simultaneous, and if one of the parties concerned violates the agreement Israel will stop implementing its part of the agreement. Israel also wants to make sure that the arrangements with Lebanon begin only after all the prisoners and missing soldiers are returned. The United States will also guarantee that Lebanon sign an agreement for normalization of its relations with Israel a few months after the withdrawal.

An interesting detail here: When we talked with Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir on this issue yesterday, he rushed to tell Yitzhaq Shamir about this and the foreign minister, according to his confidants, threatened not to submit the proposal to his U.S. counterpart if it is released and publicized.

Shultz-Begin Meeting

TA271732 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer outside the prime minister's office in Jerusalem — live]

[Text] The meeting between the prime minister and Secretary of State Shultz was highlighted by the report presented by IDF Chief of Intelligence Major General Ehud Baraq who reviewed the increased Soviet involvement in Syria. General Baraq disclosed that Russian pilots were flying helicopters for electronic warfare in Syria. The Syrian Army currently includes 400,000 soldiers. The Syrian deployment in Lebanon includes two SAM-5 systems operated by Russians,and the Syrians have no contact with them. These systems have a modern communications system which enables direct contact with Moscow.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said the things he heard from General Baraq were a source of concern, and an issue shared by both countries. Prime Minister Menahem Begin said that on the Soviet issue Israel and the United States certainly share a common interest, and this issue would be dealt with in depth in the meetings with Shultz in Israel. It is thought in Jerusalem that the deepening Soviet involvement in Syria is encouraging, or might encourage the Syrians to carry out acts of hostility.

Earlier, when Shultz and his entourage arrived to see the prime minister, it was difficult to find enough chairs for all the participants at the meeting. Upon his arrival, the U.S. secretary of state was heartily welcomed by Menahem Begin and Defense Minister Prof Moshe Arens at the entrance to the prime minister's office. When the two entourages entered the meeting hall, everybody understood that decisions on the Lebanon issue would not be made today.

At the beginning of the meeting, Shultz again listened to Israel's positions. First of all, the most important issue — as Yitzhaq Shamir put it in his meeting with Shultz — is Major Sa'd Haddad, who Israel believes has succeeded in establishing a security system which has stood up to tests in the past. That is why Israel insists on his inclusion and integration in the mechanism of security arrangements in Lebanon.

In the meeting with Yitzhaq Shamir this afternoon, the defense minister's aide, Maj Gen Avraham Tamir, reviewed the military issues included in the arrangement with Lebanon. He insisted on Israel's test of credibility in its relations with figures in the Arab world in everything pertaining to the attitude toward Haddad. Another issue raised was the joint supervision teams, an issue on which the Lebanese have retracted their agreement. As stated, Shultz today listened and took notes. Tomorrow he will leave for Beirut after he has held another private talk with the prime minister.

The U.S. argument for a softening in the Israeli position in these negotiations will be based on the presentation of the dangers posed to Israel by the prolonged negotiations, the continued deepening Soviet involvement in the region, and the danger that the Lebanese Government might go back on previous agreements for an arrangement with Israel.

As stated, there is concern in Jerusalem over the move of Syrian military forces in Lebanon and the Soviet Union's deepening involvement. However, a high-ranking political source today assessed that Syria's intention may be a political one — that is, to signal to the United States that without Damascus and Moscow, there will be no arrangement in Lebanon.

Shultz's first day of his visit to Israel is about to end. Upon his arrival, the U.S. secretary of state displayed optimism regarding the chances of arriving at an agreement over the principles for an arrangement with Lebanon, an agreement which will pave the way for negotiations with Syria and the terrorists over their withdrawal from Lebanon.

Reagan Message to Begin

TA271912 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Menahem Begin this evening told George Shultz that Israel does not intend to remain in Lebanon longer than required, but that the agreement about the withdrawal should provide for our vital security interests. At the beginning of their meeting, the U.S. secretary of state delivered a lengthy message from President Reagan to the prime minister. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer notes that the message is friendly, and that among other things, it refers to the desire to bring about the withdrawal of all forces from Lebanon.

Post-Meeting Remarks

TA280847 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0835 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Text] A few minutes ago the meeting between Prime Minister Begin and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz ended. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports from the prime minister's office in Jerusalem:

[Frankel — live] After 1 and 1/2 hours of talks, the prime minister and U.S. Secretary of State Shultz went down to meet the journalists. The U.S. secretary of state said that important talks were held yesterday and today, and that he hopes to be here for some time longer and to hold further talks. Shultz said that his meeting today concentrated on the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations and about bilateral relations. Shultz concluded by saying that it was a great privilege to hold the talks with the prime minister.

Begin began by saying: We welcome the U.S. secretary of state. The talks were conducted in a very good atmosphere. Shultz will return here, and there will be additional meetings still. When we reach conclusions, we will report the results and we hope they will be positive, Mr Begin said.

There was a warm parting between the two personages and George Shultz left on his way to Ben-Gurion airport, from which he will fly to Beirut. This evening he will return here, and tomorrow the U.S. secretary of state will hold another round of talks in Jerusalem.

Navon-Shultz Meeting

TA271636 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Secretary of State Shultz spoke with President Navon this afternoon. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that the main topic of discussion was that of the prisoners of war and those missing in action. Navon asked Shultz to act to solve that painful problem. The U.S. secretary of state answered that he is familiar with the problem and is trying to act on it.

Begin Addresses Knesset Committee on Shultz Visit

TA271233 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1221 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Here is a report from the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee:

Prime Minister Menahem Begin says that if the Reagan plan is raised again by George Shultz, Israel will reply by saying that only the Camp David agreements can be the foundations for peace. Appearing before that Knesset committee, the prime minister said that every effort should be made to conclude the negotiations with Lebanon in the course of Shultz' present visit.

As for the Syrians, Mr Begin said they are fortifying their front lines and caution must be exercised. The Syrians' intentions are not necessarily offensive, the prime minister said, adding: Israel certainly has no intention of attacking the Syrians.

MK Shim'on Peres said that in Lebanon there are a lot of arms but very little consensus. The agreement with Lebanon, Peres said, will not change much because in fact there is no government there.

MK Beni Shalita said that if the Cabinet gets guarantees that the Syrians will withdraw from Lebanon, it could afford to withdraw a little before them.

Mk Hayim Druckman said: Shultz came to Israel to take care of U.S. interests rather than our security. Israel must unilaterally withdraw to the Al-'Awwali. Our correspondent Sha'ul Stav was the one who brought the report from the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

More on Knesset Meeting

TA271509 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Excerpts] A short time before his meeting with George Shultz, the prime minister said that Israel cannot make any concessions whatsoever on the issue of the status of Haddad's forces despite

the dispute with the United States. In his opinion, the main thing in the negotiations with Lebanon is to stubbornly insist on the security arrangements. Begin made these remarks to members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He asked the Alignment members: The obstinacy on the question of Haddad is also acceptable to you, but what will happen if this is unacceptable to the United States?

Referring to Syria, the prime minister said that Israel is doing nothing to justify Syria's fears about an attack against them. According to him, the Syrians were creating the tension and their intentions were unclear.

Regarding the Reagan plan, the prime minister announced that Israel has not changed its position and that it will not accept any notion deviating from Camp David.

Shim'on Peres said that what matters now is to rapidly complete the negotiations and bring the soldiers back home. According to MK Rabin, the real partners to an agreement in Lebanon are not Israel and Lebanon, but Israel and Syria. He expressed doubt about the chances of reaching an arrangement for a mutual withdrawal with the Syrians. These remarks were reported by our correspondent Razi Barqay.

More Comments From Committee

TA271600 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Our correspondent Razi Barqay has more details about the meeting:

[Barqay] Menahem Begin told the committee members that Israel has made it clear to the Americans that it wants a comprehensive and simultaneous withdrawal of foreign forces. Agreement has been reached with Lebanon on terminating the state of war, and maintaining an open border. However, the Lebanese are still averse to including de facto removal of the boycott in the written and public document. The U.S. secretary of state may seek to revive the Reagan plan in Jerusalem. However, the prime minister told his audience, we will not initiate any debate on this issue; we have not changed our position — Camp David is the only basis and we will not accept any deviations.

Shim'on Peres also voiced criticism: In the last few weeks, he said, we abstained from adopting specific positions for patriotic reasons and in order not to pose a burden. However, what matters now is that we rapidly conclude the negotiations and bring the soldiers back home. The more this gets dragged out, the higher the price in terms of casualties will be. No agreement whatsoever, Peres said, will guarantee a complete withdrawal of the Syrians and the terrorists. The results of this war are more complicated than we foresaw in our worst dreams.

Yitzhaq Rabin said: The main consideration in the negotiations should be the security issue. The real partners to an agreement are not the Lebanese but the Syrians. Therefore, any negotiations solely with Lebanon are worthless. The government should urge Shultz to go to Damascus. If he says afterwards that he does not have the Syrians' consent [haskama] there is no sense in holding negotiations at all. As for myself, I think that there is only a slim chance for an agreement with Syria.

Ehud Olmert said: We should demand a clarification from the United States whether an agreement with Lebanon would be the end of it, or whether it is merely an opening position in anticipation of pressures by Damascus and the United States.

Olmert addressed himself to Shim'on Peres and asked him whether it could be inferred from Peres' remarks that the Alignment has abandoned the Haddad option. Peres replied: No, there has been no deviation. Olmert: Hence, it can be said that there is a solid national agreement [haskama] on the issue of Haddad's future and the government should insist on it.

Committee Chairman Eliyahu Ben-Elisar commented: We agree to U.S. mediation on the Lebanese issue, but this does not mean that we accept their mediation between us and Damascus on the issue of the future of the Golan Heights.

Ge'ula Kohen said: The purposeless negotiations with Lebanon should be stopped at once and Israel should withdraw to the security zone where we will be able to protect our soldiers and prevent terrorism.

Hayim Druckman: Haddad is an ally who must not be abandoned.

Beni Shalita: At times, the naivete of the United States is no better than the malice of the Russians. If there are sufficient guarantees for the Syrians' withdrawal, then as far as I am concerned Israel can withdraw before them.

At the end of the meeting the prime minister addressed the Alignment representatives as follows: I agree to the assumption that the security arrangements are the main thing. Although I appreciate political arrangements, the main thing is to ensure the border. Since I heard from you that the question of Haddad is also acceptable to you, please tell me what I should tell the United States if it insists on this issue and the differences of opinion between us and Washington prevail.

So, in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee the prime minister strived to reach a wide consensus around the issue on which Israel has a sharp dispute with Secretary of State Shultz. The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee will hold another meeting with Menahem Begin immediately after the end of the U.S. secretary of state's visit.

Rabin Sees Shultz Trip as 'Key Opportunity'

TA271647 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Interview with Alignment MK Yitzhaq Rabin by Yinon Shenqar; date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] MK Rabin, U.S. Secretary of State Shultz arrived in Israel today and will apparently conduct a shuttle mission between Beirut and Jerusalem. In view of your

experience as former prime minister, is a shuttle mission between countries a good way to solve a conflict such as the one we have with Lebanon?

[Answer] I think that given the circumstances, Secretary Shultz's visit is a key opportunity from Israel's point of view to arrive at an agreement over the solution of the Lebanon problem. It seems to me that Israel should concentrate on clear and defined answers to two questions: An agreement about what and with whom?

As for the first question, I believe we should ensure the security of the settlements and inhabitants of the north. In other words, the security arrangements in the security zone 40 to 45 kms north of the Lebanese-Israeli border should include — in light of the fact that the IDF forces will not remain there — the integration of Haddad's forces in their capacity as Lebanese forces securing safety in the region and preventing the return of the terrorists to it. The main issue guiding the Cabinet is not political arrangements — there are no chances for, and no importance to such agreements with a weak government such as that of Amin al-Jumayyil — but real security arrangements on land.

As for the second part of the question: I do not take into account an Israeli-Lebanese agreement which is unacceptable to Syria. Therefore, I believe the Israeli Government should demand that Shultz not make do with reaching and handling an Israeli-Lebanese agreement because it would be meaningless. Without Syrian consent the Lebanon problem will not be solved in such a way as to include the withdrawal of all the foreign forces.

[Question] How does one go about getting such consent?

[Answer] I think it was a mistake by Israel — but mainly by the United States — to ignore Syria for the 4 or 5 months of the negotiations. An Israeli-Lebanese agreement is meaningless because Israel would not withdraw from Lebanon on the basis of such an agreement and leave the Syrians and the PLO in Lebanon to undermine the internal balance.

In such an event, a government capable of implementing these agreements would be nonexistent. Therefore, Shultz must go to Beirut and Damascus and return to Jerusalem and say whether the Israeli-Lebanese agreement is acceptable or unacceptable to Syria. If it is unacceptable to Syria, there can be no agreement.

[Question] How do you see things developing in our region then?

[Answer] I do not want to prophesy about developments. I said that we must try and reach an agreement. If we do not attain it during Shultz's tour, the chances for attaining a comprehensive solution to the Lebanon problem will significantly decrease and Israel will have to contemplate one-sided moves only on its part.

[Question] MK Rabin, Labor Party leaders are also scheduled to confer with Mr Shultz. What do you intend to tell him?

[Answer] First, we will listen. The meeting will take place after his visits in Lebanon and we will first wait and see what he is bringing along.

[Question] Do you (?advocate) shuttle negotiations?

[Answer] To date, they have succeeded in several cases.

[Question] Such as in the case of Kissinger, for example?

[Answer] Kissinger as well as Carter, the U.S. President, who came to The Middle East and brought about the initialling of the peace treaty. I doubt it that if he had not come here and shuttled between Cairo and Jerusalem and vice versa the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty would have been initialled then.

ALGERIA

'Arafat Holds Talks With President Bendjedid

JN271719 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has met with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. They discussed the recent state of affairs in the Arab and Palestinian arenas.

Abu 'Ammar arrived in Algiers on a short visit to hold talks with ranking Algerian officials. Abu 'Ammar met at his place of residence in Algiers with Brothers Muhammad Milhim and Fahd al-Qawasmi, where they discussed the recent developments in the Palestinian cause.

Messaadia Holds Talks With French Communists

LD271516 Algiers APS in English 1340 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Algiers, 27/4/83 (APS) — Political talks between the FLN party and the French Communist Party (FCP) started yesterday evening here under the presidency of Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, head of the CC permanent Secretariat, and Mr Georges Marchais, FCP secretary general.

These talks were devoted to relations and to the extent of cooperation between the two parties and to current international matters particularly political and economic questions of common interest. Mr Marchais, who flew in yesterday afternoon for an official visit, said in a statement to the press his visit came within the framework of traditional relations of friendship and solidarity between the two parties. He praised the positive development in bilateral relations indicating that the present cooperation "copes with the interest of both countries and both peoples".

On the international plan, he said his talks with FLN officials will deal with the necessity to establish a new international economic order and the diverse aspects of the international situation, mainly in the Middle East.

The situation in the Mediterranean region and common efforts to turn this sea into a "lake of peace and cooperation will also be examined", Mr Marchais said.

BRIEFS

IRANIAN COMMERCIAL ACCORDS — Algiers, 26/4/83 (APS) — Algeria and Islamic Republic of Iran signed yesterday in Algiers, two accords dealing with commercial exchanges, the other one with the creation of a joint commission between the two countries. The accords were signed, on the Algerian part by Mr Abdelaziz Khellef, CC member, trade minister, and on the Iranian side by Mr Askar Ayadi, Iranian minister of trade who is leading a high level delegation on an official visit for three days, in Algeria. The commercial agreement, the first in its kind between the two governments, and that linked to the creation of a joint commission, constitutes a political and a juridical achievement for the development of commercial exchanges between the two countries, it is a sighting mark for the achievement of a South-South cooperation. It is note worth that the exchanges between the two countries, in the commercial field have up to now witness just a little development. Many fields especially the agricultural industrial sectors are offer possibilies for exchanges between the two countries as from the current year. The two ministers, expressed by the end of the ceremony of signing of the documents their two government's will to develop intensive relations between Algeria and Iran for the well being of the Muslim peoples. Moreover an official report of the talks was signed between the two ministers. [Text] [Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 26 Apr 83 LD]

MOROCCO

Maghreb Nationalist Movements Meet in Tangier

LD261418 Rabat MAP in English 1220 GMT 26 Apr 83

[Text] Tangier, April 26 (MAP) — The representatives of the three Maghreb nationalist movements, the Istiqlal Party of Morocco, the National Liberation Front of Algeria and the Socialist Destourian Party of Tunisia, met on Monday in the Moroccan northern city of Tangier to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Tangier conference on the edification of the great Arab Maghreb.

From April 27 to 30, 1958, the three Maghreb independence parties had held a conference on the theme "mobilization for the edification of a unified great Arab Maghreb" during which they had laid the founding stone for the unity of the Maghreb, based on brotherly solidarity of Maghreb peoples.

The members of the Moroccan, Algerian and Tunisian delegations, led respectively by Mr M'hamed Boucetta, secretary general of the Istiqlal Party; Mr Abdelhamid Mehri, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the Information and Culture Commission of the National Liberation Front (NLF); and Mr Mongi Kooli,director of the Socialist Destourian Party, first visited an exhibition of press documents and photographs on the 1958 Tangier conference.

Then, the secretary general of the Istiqlal Party took the floor to stress the importance of this conference and underline its historic and geo-political context.

Recalling the struggle led by the three Maghreb peoples for their independence and unity, Mr Boucetta pointed out that the idea of unity was always linked to the political action, and liberation struggle against colonialism, especially as Maghreb peoples are bound by ties of history, religion, language and a common destiny.

After he affirmed that Maghreb peoples' acting solidarity had speeded up the liberation of the Maghreb and to a certain extent the liberation of the African Continent, Mr Boucetta outlined that "the spirit of Tangier" was still alive despite some [word indistinct] difficulties and opens the way to a revival of Maghreb unifying action.

"We are doomed to achieve the unification of the great Arab Maghreb," he said, "because modern times require regional communities and not micro-states.

He added that the great Arab Maghreb would constitute a step forward in achieving Arab unity and the liberating Palestine.

Taking the floor next, the head of the Algerian delegation indicated that the Tangier conference represents for all Maghrebans a glorious page of their common history and the liberation struggle they jointly led to meet the legitimate aspirations of Maghreb peoples to independence and unity.

He said he was convinced that King Hassan II supports the initiatives of this Maghreb meeting as his father the late King Mohammed V had supported it before.

The commemoration of this historic anniversary, he said, is held following the important events that have marked these last days relations among the countries of the Maghreb, mainly the Moroccan-Algerian summit on the one hand, and the Algerian-Tunisian summit on the other.

He added that the resolutions of the Tangier conference still constitute the ideal framework for achieving the unity of Maghreb peoples.

Mr Mehri finally expressed hope that the three political movements would carry on efforts to edifify a unified great Arab Maghreb.

The head of the Tunisian delegation on his part said that the celebration of this anniversary proves Maghreb peoples' faith in the Maghreb ideal and their firm determination to edify the great Arab Maghreb.

He added that the 1958 conference had recommended the setting up of the great Maghreb based on several objective elements binding the peoples of the region, mainly their common history, religion, language, civilization, neighbourliness, as well as the ordeal of colonialism they have all gone through.

The spirit of Tangier is still alive, he said, and so is the idea of the great Arab Maghreb. The countries of the region provide ideal conditions for setting up a powerful regional community that can impose itself as an international economic power, Mr Kooli pointed out.

Adding that the improvement of relations among Maghreb countries is likely to consolidate their cooperation and actively contribute in edifying the unified great Arab Maghreb. [sentence as received]

The representatives of Moroccan political parties, the diplomatic corps accredited to Morocco, regional organizations, local authorities and several other personalities have attended the commemorating ceremonies.

The Moroccan, Algerian and Tunisian delegations are due to meet again this Tuesday morning to [word indistinct] out the joint declaration.

The heads of the three delegations will afterwards hold a press conference.

Boucetta Reads Statement

LD261452 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Apr 83

[Excerpts] The festival to mark the silver jubilee of the nationalist parties of the Arab Maghreb states ended in Tangier today.

Following is the Tangier statement as read out by Mr M'hamed Boucetta

[Begin Boucetta recording] In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Arab Maghreb conference which was held in Tangier from 27 April-1 May 1958, and at the invitation Istiqlal Party, representatives of the three parties — the Tunisian Socialist Destourian Party, the Algierian FLN party and the Moroccon Istiqlal Party — met at the same place in a popular festival 25 and 26 April 1983.

The speakers on behalf of the three parties — the secretary general of the Istiqlal Party, M'hamed Boucetta; the representative of the Algerian FLN Party, Abdelhamid Mehri; and the representative of the Tunisian Socialist Destourian Party, Mongi Kooli — stressed their peoples' adherence to the unity of the Arab Maghreb, and expressed pride in the determination of the officials in these countries to march ahead with the idea of unity on the path laid down by the pioneers so as to build a politically, economically,and culturally united Maghreb.

The idea of unity stemmed from the essence of the struggle for liberation. Then followed the common struggle for independence which became a strategic aim for the realization of unity among the countries of the Arab Maghreb. The charters of the movements of liberation and national struggle have stressed the fact that the independence of any of the three countries cannot be accomplished save by the independence of the other countries. Out of loyalty to those charters the governments and peoples stood in solidarity to liberate all parts of the Arab Maghreb. The Tangier conference underlined this solidarity and drew up the broad lines of unity.

Starting from these noble aims, the representatives of the liberation parties meeting today stressed the principles and resolutions which were underlined by the Tangier conference, and they renewed their promise to struggle to achieve Arab Maghreb unity.

The wide region in which the peoples of the Maghreb live, and which is natural extention of the Arab homeland, occupies a prominent position in Africa, the Arab homeland, the Mediterranean basin and the shores of the Atlantic. It is also distinquished by a natural civil unity whose authenticity is based on religion, language, and steadfastness in the face of foreign challenges, and the invasion attempt [words indistinct]. Therefore, the Arab Maghreb is called upon, more than at any other time in the past, to shoulder this responsibility to guarantee its common interests and to serve world peace. The events of the past 25 years have proved that the future development objectives of the Maghreb

demand that the people of the region embark on laying the foundations for an economically integrated Maghreb to raise the material, cultural, and intellectual standards of the citizens, and to consolidate the region's international position by pursuing a unified foreign policy which stems from its principles, values, and choices. Therefore, and in fulfillment of the resolutions and principles of the Tangier conference, the three parties meeting to commemorate this historic occasion express their determination to consolidate the ties among them and march forward to adopt all the practical measures along the road toward unity, in consultation and coordination with officials of the states of the Arab Maghreb.

In this context, the three parties declare their intention to organize regular meetings among them to study the means and the capabilities to achieve the unity. In response to the invitation of Algeria, the parties have decided to hold their forthcoming conference in Algiers at a date to be announced shortly. The parties participating in the Tangier meeting confirm that the unity which the countries of the Arab Maghreb are striving to achieve is not a substitute for Arab unity; rather, it is a positive stage on the road to the desired Arab unity. And while the three parties meeting in Tangier bless the initiatives and efforts made by the leaders of the Arab Maghreb, they urge His Excellency Habib Bourguiba, president of the Republic of Tunisia; His Majesty King Hassan II, king of Morocco; and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, on the basis of their persistent struggle and desire to unite the great Arab Maghreb, to create the apparatus which will bring its institutions into existence. The parties meeting in Tangier, while asking mercy for the souls of the martyrs of the Arab Maghreb, confirm that they will remain loyal to the unionist action which was started by the pioneering strugglers, and will work to popularize, enlighten, and deepen the roots of unity by means of study and guidance among the strugglers and citizens of the Arab Maghreb.

Tangier 26 April 1983. Thank you. [applause] [end recording]

Maghreb Party Officials Comment

LD271507 Rabat MAP in English 1240 GMT 27 Apr 73

[Text] Tangier, Apr 27 (MAP) — During a press conference held here on Tuesday noon by the heads of the Maghreban delegations having attended the ceremonies commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Tangiers conference, namely Mr M'hamed Boucetta (Istiqlal Party of Morocco), Mr Abdelhamid Mehri (National Liberation Front of Algeria) and Mr Mongi Kooli (Socialist Destourian Party of Tunisia), Mr Boucetta read out the "Tangiers Declaration" defining the unifying actions to be undertaken by Maghreban nationalist movements in view of edifying the Great Arab Maghreb.

Afterwards, the heads of the three delegations answered questions of journalists representing Arab and foreign press organs.

About the preparation of a Maghreban summit gathering the three founding parties of this historical conference, Mr Kooli indicated that his party was strongly attached to the ideal of the Maghreb, like other Maghreban political organizations, and believes in direct dialogue. The main thing, he said, is to create an overall and consistant mobilization to reach this objective which is cherished by all Maghrebans.

Regarding the participation of Mauritania and Libya in the edification of the united great Arab Maghreb, Mr Boucetta explained that the three parties of the Tangiers conference intend to extend the Maghreb not only to Mauritania and Libya but also to Egypt, i.e. to all North African countries. These initiatives will be examined during the oncoming meetings of the three parties.

To another question on Maghreban institutions whose activities were frozen these last years Mr Mehri indicated that institutions endeavouring for edifying the united Maghreb exist effectively in the three countries. But these institutions must be modernized to be able to undertake actions likely to meet the aspirations of Moroccan, Algerian and Tunisian peoples.

To a question by Spanish TV on the normalization of Moroccan-Algerian relations normalization that must necessarily go, according to a declaration that was reportedly made by Algerian foreign minister, through the settlement of the Sahara issue, Mr Boucetta said that the solution must only enter the implementation phase, Mr Boucetta indicated.

Asked to give his viewpoint on Mr Boucetta's answer regarding the Sahara issue and the question of Cueta and Melilla, Mr Mehri affirmed that the Istiqlal Party secretary general had answered on behalf of the three delegations and that he (Mr Mehri) had nothing to add.

About the place of Cueta and Melilla in the process of the united great Arab Maghreb, secretary general of the Istiqlal Party reaffirmed the Moroccanity of the two towns which have always been, which are and which will remain territories of Moroccan sovereignty. Mr Boucetta added that Morocco wanted to settle this problem with Spain in a spirit of friendship and understanding.

On relations of the united great Arab Maghreb with other Arab regimes communities (Egypt-Sudan, Gulf Cooperation Council etc.), Mr Kooli outlined that the total unity of the Arab world remains a common ideal for all Arab peoples, but, he added, the pact of the League of Arab States does not exclude the creation of regional communities.

Regarding the participation of other Maghreban political parties in edifying the Maghreb, Mr Boucetta said the action was open to all those who wanted to take part in it. He added that all Moroccan political parties were invited to attend the 25th anniversary of the Tangiers conference, and mainly the personalities having participated in the 1958 conference among whom Mr Abderrahim Bouabid, and Mr Mahjoub Ben Seddik.

To another question on the normalization of Moroccan-Algerian relations, Mr Kooli said Tunisia has always stepped up efforts for detente and cooperation among the three brotherly peoples. He added that the historical meeting between King Hassan II and President Chadli Bendjdid and the other meetings held at the Maghreban level will revive the idea of the Great Maghreb.

Aosario Communique Criticizes OAU Official

LD271401 Rabat MAP in English 1256 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Rabat, April 27 (MAP) — By executing manoeuvres aiming at "placing our (Maghreban) region at the service of those profiting from our disunion", the administrative secretary general of the Organization of African Unity "OAU" is challenging the whole of the African Continent, affirmed a communique published here Tuesday by the movement of the natives of the Sahara formerly under Spanish rule "Aosario".

The communique added that the OAU secretary general had openly joined those working against the unity of Arab ranks and seeking to divert the Arab nation's attention to its major causes, namely that of the Palestinian people.

The Aosario appealed to Maghreban leaders to clear the atmosphere among them and seek a just solution by ensuring an authentication of the Saharan populations and a true census of these populations.

ETHIOPIA

Moi, Delegation Arrive in Addis Ababa

EA271801 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi, who is the current chairman of the OAU, arrived in Addis Ababa late this morning at the head of a high-powered Kenya delegation. On arrival in the Ethiopian capital, his excellency the president was received by his host, Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam; several Ethiopian ministers; members of the diplomatic corps; Kenya's ambassador to Ethiopia, Mr Francis Nganatha; and Kenya nationals in that country.

While in Addis Ababa, President Moi will confer with other African leaders and discuss matters pertaining to the continental body. The OAU summit will be held in the Ethiopian capital in June.

Mengistu Holds Talks With UN's Perez de Cuellar

EA271851 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT27 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Commander in Chief of the Revolutionary Army and chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of the COPWE, this morning received and held talks on current international issues with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar at the National Palace.

Romanian Deputy Premier Holds Stopover Talks

EA271857 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1900 GMT 26 Apr 83

[Summary] Comrade Emanuel Amde Michael, senior deputy minister, law and justice minister and COPWE Central Committee member, held talks this morning with Romanian Deputy Premier Gheorghe Petrescu on bilateral matters. They met at Bole International Airport when the deputy premier made a brief stopover en route to Harare.

KENYA

Ouko Addresses Paris Conference on Namibia

EA271811 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] The minister for foreign affairs, Dr Robert Ouko, has accused some Western nations of collusion with racist South Africa to thwart UN efforts for Namibian independence. Dr Ouko told the current Paris conference on Namibia that the UN Resolution 435 of 1978 still offered the best formula for solving the Namibian independence problem. But he regretted the unholy alliance some members of the Western Contact Group have made with the racist regime to defeat UN initiatives to resolve the current Namibian stalemate.

He called on the Paris conference to stop the departure of some Western Contact Group members from the UN position on the war-torn territory. He suggested tough measures which will make it far more costly for the racists to maintain their illegal occupation of Namibia. The minister warned that no threat of force would deter African resolve to ensure Namibian independence at the earliest opportunity.

SOMALIA

Embassy in Kenya Gives Warning to Ethiopia

AB271252 Paris AFP in English 1037 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Nairobi, April 27 (AFP) — Somalia is ready to teach Ethiopia "the usual lesson" if the Ethiopians try to invade the neighbouring state, the Somali Embassy here said in a statement today.

The statement said that it was "unfortunate that Abyssinia (Ethiopia) which has not learned from past history is now intent on another agression on Somalia."

Stating that Ethiopia's "alien masters" were trying to push Addis Ababa into a "suicidal invasion," the embassy said that it was a "historical fact that each time a military confrontation took place between Somali and Abyssinian forces, external forces came to the rescue of Abyssinia, starting with the Portuguese in the Middle Ages and most recently the Warsaw Pact powers and their stooges."

The embassy statement was a response to recent Ethiopian charges that Somalia was about to invade Ethiopia, it said.

"This pathological intent on agression is not only betrayed by Abyssinia's frequent military incursions and air raids against innocent civilian targets inside Somalia but is also amply demonstrated by the fact that Abyssinia is occupying two enclaves of Somali territory since last year," the statement concluded.

(The Ethiopian authorities maintain that the enclaves, near Balamballe and Galgodub on the Somali side of the common border, are in the hands of Somali rebels).

BENIN

SDAR Head Makes Stopover, Speaks to Press

AB250954 Paris AFP in French 0910 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] Cotonou, 25 Apr (AFP) — The president of the SDAR, Mohamed Abdelaziz, made a stopover in Cotonou on Sunday night coming from Algiers.

The Saharan head of state, who is on an African tour, left on Monday morning for Maputo.

During his stay in Cotonou, Mr Abdelaziz held discussions with Beninese President Mathieu Kerekou, who welcomed him on arrival.

In a statement to the press, the president of the SDAR recalled the solid ties between the two countries. His people, he said, will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the beginning of the armed struggle for national liberation on 20 May. "Our fight," he stressed, "will be a victorious one, despite the support the imperialists will give to Morocco and despite Morocco's intransigence and expansionism."

On the upcoming OAU summit, Mr Abdelaziz stated that his country will assume all its responsibilities as a full member of the pan-African organization.

CAPE VERDE

Algeria's Abdelghani Discusses Bilateral Issues

LD271529 Algiers APS in English 1348 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Praia, 27 April (APS) — Important talks with the Cape Verde head of state Mr Aristides Maria Pereira, and with the premier, Mr Pedro Pires, mainly marked the official visit that Mr Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, Political Bureau member, prime minister, paid these last 48 hours in the Cape Verde, as the second leg of his African tour. Talks were mainly focused on the Algerian-Cape Verdean cooperation and the African problems.

Besides bilateral questions, it is, first of all, to thwart maneuvers of Africa's enemies.

The two parties expressed their concern before problems affecting the continent and the negative effects for the African unity. The Cape Verde side stressed its very positive appreciation of the evolution of the situation in the Arab Maghreb, as it calls "the Moroccan Government and the Polisario Front for direct negotiations, under the OAU auspices," to settle the Western Sahara conflict in the respect of the Saharan people's inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

The joint communique reaffirmed the indefectible support of Algeria and the Cape Verde Republic in favour of the just struggle of the Namibian people under SWAPO leadership.

GHANA

National Economic Situation Described, Analyzed

AB271356 Paris AFP in English 1333 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Accra, April 27 (AFP) — The recent government-inspired increases of up to 300 percent in the cost of a wide range of products in daily use has come as a brutal shock to Ghanaian households just as the West African country is about to be faced with serious food supply problems.

The country's economic situation is generally catastrophic.

The mammoth increases — up to 1,000 percent for air fares — were announced at the end of last week as the government of Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings announced its budget for the coming year.

Yet, the shock treatment might prove to be the only way to save Ghana, which otherwise seems to be heading towards bankruptcy.

When Flight Lieutenant Rawlings seized power from President Hilla Limann on New Year's Eve 1981, he took on a critical economic situation and the past 16 months have shown that he too has been unable to halt the country's economic slide, oiled by years of corruption and general inefficiency.

He first thought that by declaring a "holy war" on corruption and promising his compatriots "blood, sweat and tears" he would be able to correct the situation, but the young air force officer has now come round to opening negotiations with the International Monetary Fund.

Many of the decisions included in the 1983 budget satisfy conditions laid down by the IMF, which could reach now an agreement with the Ghanaian authorities either next month or in June.

Ghanaian economic sources said the agreement would include a loan of some 300 million dollars from the Fund and 110 million dollars from the World Bank.

The negotiations have been carried out by Finance and Economic Planning Secretary Kwesi Botwe, who has managed to avoid an official devaluation of the Ghana cedi. This is valued on the official market at 2.75 to the dollar, whereas on the black market a dollar earns 80 cedis.

The plan worked out with the IMF involves 500 percent bonuses for exporters, while importers of non-essential goods will be penalised by an 800 percent tax.

The result is an effective devaluation of the cedi by 800 percent. Bringing the cedi in line with the black market rate would require a devaluation in the region of 2,500 percent. Officials hope this scheme will free the authorities to pay far higher rates to peasants farming cocoa, the cash crop that supplies Ghana with 60 percent of its foreign exchange — cocoa exporters are expected to bring in 350 million dollars this year.

This would discourage the traditional smuggling of cocoa into Togo and Ivory Coast, where it is sold for West African francs.

In exchange, Mr Botwe has agreed to massive increases in the prices of cloth, soap, matches, beer and cigarettes. The official prices for rice, maize and sugar remain unchanged, but the street prices of these commodities have soared as shortages made themselves felt.

Although the government increased the minimum wage from 12 cedi a day to 21, the price increases will soon start to bite.

Newspapers have been giving front page treatment to reactions to the sudden hikes, and trade unions have protested against the lack of consultations and urged changes in the budget.

The situation has been worsened by last February's influx of more than one million Ghanaian expatriates deported from Nigeria as illegal immigrants, as well as by an unusually long dry season and serious bush fires that destroyed crops, and even whole villages.

A yam, the basic food here, now costs 150 cedis. Six months ago it was only 50 cedis.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings recently warned that Ghana would have to import food and that the returning expatriates would make life even more difficult.

The authorities have already started distributing some of the 13,000 tons of cereals sent here by the United Nations as emergency relief for the returnees, but officials believe the shortfall in cereals for the current year will be in the range of 300,000 tons, and 65 million dollars — 20 percent of the expected revenue from cocoa — has been earmarked for cereal imports.

One of the results of the crisis has been to push people back into moonlighting to pay the food bills, and it is not unusual to hear of civil servants with two, and sometimes three, extra jobs.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings had hoped to put an end to "kalabule," the local name for the corruption and other questionable deals which some people use to supplement their incomes, but it is flourishing once again.

One civil servant said: "How do you expect me to manage? I earn 700 cedis, just 700 a month, and I need 4,000 to keep my family alive. I have another job outside the ministry, so I look into the office in the morning and a second time later in the day."

PNDC Member Announces $40 Million Food Program

AB270909 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] The government is to undertake an emergency food program worth $40 million to help alleviate the present shortage in the country. This is quite distinct from the 1983 import program which is expected to be reviewed to give credence to the government's policy of mobilization and rural development. This was announced by a member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Na Polkuu Chiir, while addressing a delegation of the National Council of Muslim Youths, a wing of the Ghana Muslim Representative Body, which called on him to renew [words indistinct]. He asked the Muslim body to (?fully) support the government in its efforts to (?save) the country from its present difficulties and not to allow itself to be deceived by enemies of the government who want to retard the progress of the PNDC. Na Polkuu Chiir repeated that the PNDC is not against the rich but he however appealed to those engaged in businesses to pay their taxes regularly as their contribution to [words indistinct]. On the green revolution, Na Polkuu Chiir called on the chiefs to educate their subjects to go into large-scale farming, as this will go a long way to help Ghana to be self-sufficient in food production and thereby (?enable) the government to utilize the country's scarce foreign exchange to bring in important items like drugs, (?vehicles) and food.

GUINEA

Guinea-Bissau Prime Minister Arrives on Visit

AB270945 Paris AFP in French 0752 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Dakar, 27 Apr (AFP) — According to broadcasts from Radio Conakry monitored in Dakar, Guinea-Bissau Prime Minister Victor Saude Maria arrived in Conakry on Tuesday on an official 4-day "friendly and working" visit at the invitation of his Guinean counterpart, Lansana Beavogui.

Victor Saude Maria is accompanied by Joseph Turpin, the minister of natural resources.

His visit reciprocates the one paid by Lansana Beavogui to Bissau last December. "This visit falls within the framework of the indestructible ties between the two peoples," stated Radio Conakry.

IVORY COAST

President's Speech on Teachers Strike Reported

AB270856 Paris AFP in English 0811 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Abidjan, April 27 (AFP) — An unnamed foreign power was trying to destabilize Ivory Coast by getting secondary school teachers to strike over the past fortnight, President Felix Houphouet-Boigny charged here Tuesday night in a lengthy speech to the Politburo and Steering Committee of his ruling party.

Observers said he probably was referring to Libya. The president remarked that only five countries in the region had not been destabilized — Ivory Coast and Senegal, Cameroon, Gabon and Guinea. But now Ivory Coast was apparently thought to be ripe for revolution, he said.

Mr Houphouet-Boigny said he was "very pained and discouraged" by the behaviour of the teachers. They are upset about the abolition of free housing for various categories of civil servants, themselves included. Proposed alternative housing allowances are not enough, the teachers say. They also have alleged that

property owners have been charging the state vastly inflated rents for the housing sites. The president has announced an inquiry into the allegations, under his supervision.

Mr Houphouet-Boigny said he and his family had been threatened in the past few days. He disclosed that one of his granddaughters was [word indistinct] raped and wounded, and left lying in the roadway of her husband's house.

The president dwelt on his personal fortune, which has been criticised. He acknowledged that he had large sums of money in Switzerland, but added that he also had a lot of money in Ivory Coast, "which proves I have confidence in my country."

He spoke of social works he had initiated, adding that "many people do not suspect their existence."

The current crisis necessitated economies, and there was no question of shelving the decision to do away with free housing for teachers, the president insisted. [Words indistinct] year the country ought to [words indistinct] oil needs locally, and could become an exporter by 1985, he forecast.

Assembly Supports President

AB271524 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Excerpt] The strike action by secondary school teachers was again mentioned this morning at the National Assembly during the solemn opening session of parliament. The speaker of the National Assembly, Henri Konan Bedie, stated clearly in his opening address that the National Assembly firmly supports measures concerning the cancellation of the leased-housing scheme and its replacement by contributory allowances for people entitled to such houses. On behalf of the members of parliament, Mr Bedie, therefore, called upon all teachers to go back to work. [Begin Bedie recording] Our parliament, which was established out of the desire for change and adjustment, strongly supports the austerity measures taken to redress the management of public finance. These are courageous and reasonable measures based on the Ivorian's ability to adapt himself to increasing dangers. Let there be no mistake! The National Assembly firmly supports measures concerning the abolition of the leased-housing scheme, which has been replaced by a system under which contributory allowances are given to those entitled to such houses, as clearly defined by existing regulations.

The National Assembly fraternally but firmly calls upon teachers to go back to work and take up the assignment entrusted to them by society without any preconditions. [applause] It is generally agreed that everyone must submit himself to the established democratic consensus, which views the free acceptance of national discipline, the factor that makes the well-being and progress of our society possible, as not only a duty for us, but a source of national pride as well. This course of conduct is the only real path to reconquering dialogue and hope. Our Assembly firmly stands by the head of state in his efforts to work toward that end with the party, the government and the popular masses who elected it. [end recording]

NIGERIA

Armed Forces To Act 'Decisively' on Borders

AB281413 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Text] Nigeria has directed her Armed Forces to act decisively with any struggler or intruder at any point on her borders. The directive was contained in a statement issued in Lagos today by the permanent secretary to the Ministry of Defense, (Alhaji Aminu Saleh). The statement also assured all Nigerians that the Federal Government was determined to protect the territorial integrity of the country at all costs.

Explaining the reason for the directive, the statement explained that the Nigerian Armed Forces have for some time been (?fighting) soldiers on Lake Chad islands which are within Nigerian territory.

AFP Report

AB281334 Paris AFP in French 1300 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Text] Lagos, 28 Apr (AFP) — Several incidents, which left at least two people dead, broke out a few days ago between Chadian and Nigerian troops on the island of Kinasara in Lake Chad, a communique from the Nigerian Ministry of Defense announced on Thursday.

[Words indistinct] when Nigerian troops, which protect Nigerian fishermen from Chadian prowlers, "were attacked by a Chadian platoon." Two Chadians were killed during this incident, which left one Nigerian wounded, the communique added.

According to the Nigerian Ministry of Defense, the Chadians reinforced their troops the next day and on 20 April Nigerian soldiers were subjected to a "heavy artillery and mortar attack" from the Chadian troops.

Finally, the communique indicates that on 24 April, the Chadians launched a heavy attack, to which the Nigerian troops responded with "a counterattack."

The communique expressed concern over "this violation of Nigeria's territorial integrity," and stated that the Government of Nigeria has protested to the Chadian authorities.

The communique also stated that Nigerian troops have been ordered to respond immediately to any attacks by prowlers or intruders on the country's border.

"The Federal Government assures all Nigerians that Nigeria is ready to defend its territorial integrity at all costs," the communique concluded.

It should be recalled that in May 1981, "incidents" on the Nigerian-Cameroon border caused the death of five Nigerian soldiers, shot by a platoon of Cameroonian soldiers.

Al-Qadhdhafi Asks End of 'Colonial Mentality'
AB271542 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] The Administrative Staff College of Nigeria, ASKON, has been advised to change its curriculum and lectures to eradicate the colonial mentality in the administrative setup of Nigeria and Africa as a whole. The advice was given today in Badagry by the visiting Libyan head of state, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, during a tour of the institute. He said an administrative machinery attuned to the colonial style will not help in the emancipation of the African people since it was designed to suit their own interest of exploitation of the developing nations. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said that one of the problems facing the administrative setup of developing countries was the issue of public officers seeing their jobs as sources of income and not part of service to the people.

The Libyan leader used the occasion to define the mechanisms of the revolutionary government of his country, where people do things themselves.

Col al-Qadhdhafi will this evening attend a state banquet arranged in his honor by President Shehu Shagari.

Al-Qadhdhafi Changes Itinerary
AB271827 Paris AFP in French 1622 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Lagos, 27 Apr (AFP) — The leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, once again surprised Nigerian authorities on Wednesday by upsetting the program on the third day of his visit to Nigeria.

Arriving Monday afternoon amid exceptionally heavy security, the Libyan head of state was scheduled to go to Kaduna and Zaria in the northern part of the country on Wednesday to visit an agricultural project and the civil aviation school. In fact, without any official explanation of the change in program, the entourage went to Badagry, 50 km west of Lagos, to inspect the Administrative Staff College of Nigeria. The Libyan leader also visited a Volkswagen plant situated on the road to Badagry.

Several Nigerian officials privately joked about the many twists made in the program and the liberties the entire Libyan delegation has taken with Nigerian protocol. Apart from the fact that times on the schedule are not respected, officials of the president's office joke about the deployment of young armed guards, which is tolerated by the Nigerian authorities. "It is always the same thing; wherever he goes, he must go with his own guards," stated an official who thinks that this attitude is "perhaps less hypocritical than that of the Westerners who are also accompanied by bodyguards, though in a more discreet way." Some people also recall that on Monday at the Lagos runway, a Libyan brass band in uniform was waiting to take over from the Nigerian forces' brass. "Perhaps they think we will not be able to play their national anthem," a Nigerian journalist thought. "What an organization," said another journalist in astonishment, when he saw the brass band and the three planes of the Libyan delegation.

"I thought as much, this man is really unpredictable," said one ambassador who attended a cocktail party for diplomats Monday night.

Col al-Qadhdhafi and his host, President Shehu Shagari, will sign a joint communique on Thursday morning, before leaving for a destination which Nigerian officials still do not seem to know, but which could be Cotonou.

Security Council Asked To Meet on Namibia
AB271138 Lagos NAN in English 1103 GMT 27 Apr 83

[By Wada Maida]

[Text] Paris, April 27 (NAN) — Nigeria has called for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to consider the present situation in Namibia and to adopt appropriate measures for the implementation of its Resolutions 385 and 435.

Making the call at an international conference on Namibia in Paris yesterday, the minister of state for external affairs, Chief Patrick Bolokor, said that some measures were necessary to promote the cause of freedom in Namibia.

The minister said that the failure by the South African regime to comply with UN resolutions on Namibia demanded a decisive response by the Security Council, including the imposition of mandatory economic sanctions in accordance with the UN Charter.

He suggested an international campaign to promote such an action by member-states and the Security Council, to draw attention to the attacks and acts of aggression by the Pretoria regime against the frontline states.

He said that the challenge posed by South Africa to the United Nations was a threat to international peace and security which could not be understimated because it undermined the foundation of international order.

The minister criticised the Western industrialised countries who had not only continued to maintain economic cooperation with South Africa but had increased their financial and economic investments there in clear violation of several UN resolutions.

He said that the same countries that played a central role in working out the Namibian independence plan aided, abetted and connived at South Africa's rejection of the same plan, adding: These powers bear heavy moral responsibility for the bloody conflicts which have now become inevitable in South Africa.

Chief Bolokor told the conference that the Namibian people were entitled to seek help from wherever it was available to prosecute the armed struggle against South Africa since the option has been forced on Africa by the intransigence of the racist regime as well as the hypocrisy and duplicity of Western countries.

He congratulated the Government of Spain for its recent decision not to accept a contract to repair three South African submarines and urged other Western countries to show a similar sense of duty.

The minister reiterated Nigeria's opposition to all vestiges of colonialism and racism in Africa and asked SWAPO and the Namibian people to always count on the support of the government and people of Nigeria, for their struggle is ours as well.

Papers Write on CIA Story, Beirut Bombing

AB211331 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Three papers — the SATELLITE, the MIDWEEK TELEGRAPH, and the NIGERIAN HERALD — write on the alleged attempt by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, to overthrow the present civilian government in Nigeria and assassinate two eminent personalities. The papers have different views on the issue: The SATELLITE says that the seeming collaboration of some unpatriotic Nigerians with foreign forces to subvert democracy is criminal, adding that it should be condemned by all and those involved brought to book after the Federal Government white paper on the report of the tribunal which has been set up by President Shehu Shagari to investigate the allegations.

The MIDWEEK TELEGRAPH on its part says that the alleged coup story is strong enough to generate fear and (?resentment) in the minds of the generality of members of the public. But contrary to the comments of the SATELLITE and the TELEGRAPH, the NIGERIAN HERALD believes that the assassination story is untrue, adding that no political group in Nigeria today works in parallel lines in terms of cooperation with the United States.

In its editorial captioned: "Watch it, America!" the NIGERIAN OBSERVER addresses its mind to the recent bombing in Beirut of the American Embassy in Lebanon. Lamenting over the tragic incident, the OBSERVER advises the Washington regime to reappraise its foreign policy with special emphasis on the developing countries whose weak economic and military base, it claims, are being exploited by the superpowers.

UPPER VOLTA

Ouedrago Makes Statement on Subregional Tour

AB271243 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 26 Apr 83

[Text] Let us recall that Major Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo, the chairman of the People's Salvation Council, CSP, returned to Ouagadougou this morning after friendly working visits that took him successively to Togo, Ghana, Benin and Niger. President Ouedraogo was welcomed on his arrival by Prime Minister Captain Thomas. The president of the Supreme Court, a CSP delegation, members of government and of the diplomatic corps and many other personalities were present.

After the welcoming ceremony, the head of state spoke to the press in the airport's VIP lounge. Before answering questions, he made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Ouedraogo] The friendly working visits that I have just made to Togo, Ghana, Benin and Niger were useful and fruitful in all respects. Our Upper Voltan delegation received a very warm welcome wherever we went. I would like to take this opportunity to again express our gratitude to all those who so heartily received us. Through the quality of the hospitality shown us, I can see evidence of the high esteem in which the CSP is held and, beyond this, evidence of the love and consideration enjoyed by Upper Volta, the land of peace, which always aspires to live in perfect harmony with its neighbors. And it was precisely a message of peace, dialogue and solidarity from the CSP and the people of Upper Volta that I sought to convey to our sisterly neighboring countries. In this world, which is subject to all kinds of uncertainties, the realism and interests of Upper Volta make it a duty for us to work closely with all countries of the subregion toward greater solidarity. It happens — and this is the happy observation we can make on the results of this mission — that the sister countries we visited also had this vision of cooperation and showed their total readiness for closer collaboration with us in our daily efforts to build our subregion and our continent.

To this end, frank discussions permitted us to arrive at concrete results, for it is true that where there is the will to build understanding through the exchange of views, there is only progress toward the achievement of common goals. It was in this manner that Upper Volta and the countries we visited reached a decision to reactivate their joint commissions for cooperation. All pertinent issues were subject to careful and determined examination, both in the fields of [words indistinct], telecommunications, transport, free movement of people, movement of livestock, all these sectors [words indistinct].

In Togo we were deeply impressed by the mobilization of the Togolese people within the framework of the Togolese People's Rally around General Gnassingbe Eyadema, whose policy of political action on matters of international relations are dialogue and the exchange of views. These are — and I agree with him — principles that are based on tolerance and aimed at peace.

In Ghana we honored a country with a glorious past. There we measured the tenacious will of the Ghanaian people to rehabilitate themselves and to rebuild their country according to their desire. On the strength of what we saw there and learned about their situation, I certify that the options of this country are misunderstood and it is our duty to plead that it is no longer affected by [word indistinct]

On behalf of the CSP, I asked Flight Lieutenant Rawlings to favor a more open-door policy between Ghana and the outside world. In any case, I testify that Ghana and its authorities still show some degree of clarity in their analysis of our common problems and in their approach to international cooperation.

In Benin, a country with a revolutionary option but belonging to the same subregional cooperation organizations, we were given

wise and prudent advice to bring our action to a successful conclusion. The great experience of President Mathieu Kerekou and the success won under his clairvoyant leadership force us to carefully weigh his words in order to draw the best benefit from them.

Niger, which has taken its destiny into its own hands and has achieved notable progress in many fields, won our admiration. Without demagogy or noise, but rather through realism and determination, General Kountche has successfully engaged his country in the struggle against hunger, destitution and illiteracy.

If we acquainted ourselves with the experience of others, we also developed principles of action that bear on the objectives that the CSP has assigned itself at both the internal and foreign policy level. From the reactions that were recorded, I can assure you that our message was well understood and much welcomed. The great lesson that I learned from this visit, one that will benefit Upper Volta, is that lucidity, realism and union should be the basis of our internal policy, while active solidarity should characterize our relations with countries of the subregion and the world assembly.

[Question] Mr President, after exhaustively taking stock of your long tour, I would like to ask you two questions. First of all, do you have special lessons to draw from these visits to the capitals of four neighboring countries and, secondly, when is your next trip abroad?

[Answer] I have already mentioned to you quite briefly the lessons that I have drawn from these visits. I will only remind you that the primary objective of this visit was to convey the message of friendship and good neighborliness to our neighboring countries and, above all, it was to acquaint ourselves with the realities and achievements of these countries in order to allow us to lay concrete and solid foundations for our own development and to consult with one another. I can also say that the economic development of this subregion and the economic development of our respective countries can only be achieved in stability and peace, and for these we must engage in dialogue and consultation. We have to be able to associate one with the other; we have to take into account the interests of our respective peoples to jointly insure a prosperous (?future) for this subregion. During my next visit, we will surely have the opportunity to thoroughly exchange views on our experiences, especially concerning [words indistinct]

[Question] Mr President, allow me to phrase my question more precisely. You visited four neighboring countries; two remain. When do you plan to visit them?

[Answer] I have decided to visit all our neighboring countries, that means the six countries surrounding us. We have already visited four of them. Ivory Coast and Mali remain. Concerning President Houphouet-Boigny particularly, we are waiting for his [word indistinct] to plan this visit and, to avoid going up and down, we are planning to organize this visit at the same time as that to Mali. [end recording]

ANGOLA

Crackdown Noted on Diamond Smuggling to Portugal

AB270932 Paris AFP in English 0801 GMT 27 Apr 83

[By Jean-Luc Porte]

[Text] Luanda, April 27 (AFP) — Angolan authorities in the last two weeks have rounded up diamond and foreign currency smugglers in an operation of unprecedented scale. An informed source said that several dozen people had been arrested, including staff of the national airline TAAG, and that Portuguese foreign aid workers could be implicated in the affair, which has gradually expanded. Many people are said to have left the country in fear of arrest.

On January 19, a former defence minister of East Timor was sentenced to 10 years in prison by a Luanda court for illegal diamond trafficking. His evidence and that of a pilot apparently led to the latest operation.

Informed sources said that diamond trafficking in Angola was a huge business involving several thousand people. The ANGOLAN NEWS AGENCY ANGOP has said that diamond trafficking to Portugal could be estimated at 120 million dollars annually, placing Angola fourth in the international league of illicit trade in precious stones.

A shortage of industrial products in the rural diamond-mining zones of Lunda and Malange, in eastern and northern Angola respectively, coupled with galloping inflation, has turned the local population into potential diamond traffickers. The sources said that diamonds had become the main form of currency for some peasants in these areas and had enabled them to establish trade relations with city-dwellers.

A typical diamond trafficker, or kamanguista, lives in the capital, where he buys consumer goods on the parallel market. These he exchanges for the precious stones in the course of a discreet visit to Malange.

"Stereo hi-fi equipment is an excellent coin of exchange for diamonds," said a security official of Diamang, the Angolan state diamond company. "However, hunting rifles are by far the most desirable item for this kind of swap, and we have seen jeeps bartered for rifles that were in turn traded off for consignments of diamonds," the official said.

He remarked that the smugglers double their effectiveness by marrying women from the diamond-rich regions. That makes the bartering sessions less dangerous, as the trafficker has the protection of his in-laws. The concept of the family in those regions is very extensive. Such family ties also act as a very good "visa" to get round restrictions on travel in the gem-producing areas. Once a consignment has been made up, all that remains to be done is to take a holiday in Portugal, where there is not much difficulty in getting the uncut stones into circulation.

ANGOP has complained often in the past few months about a "diamond club" set up in Lisbon as a pressure group for Angolan traffickers. A main aim is to block moves by the Portuguese Justice Ministry to outlaw diamonds brought into the country secretly.

Well-placed sources here said there was a Mafia operating in Angola with accomplices at the highest level. They cited the impressive number of leading figures who had luxurious villas in Europe but whose ordinary revenue could not finance such acquisitions.

The sources calculated that diamond trafficking was almost equal to the country's official annual output of nearly 1.5 million carats.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Opens Fourth Frelimo Party Congress

MB271349 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0755 GMT 26 Apr 83

[Opening address by Samora Machel, president of the People's Republic of Mozambique and chairman of the Frelimo Party, at Fourth Frelimo Party Congress on 26 April in Maputo — live]

[Text] Comrade delegates to the fourth congress, comrade officials from friendly parties and organizations, invited guests: You are most welcome.

The supreme organ of the Frelimo Party, the glorious party which was forged in the struggle, a party which set the fatherland free from foreign domination and which is today resolutely and decisively leading the construction of the socialist society is meeting today. This major event of our beloved party brings us together today in this hall and in the capital city of our country, which was freed and is being defended by the unbreakable will of its people.

It is on behalf of the people, it is on behalf of the noble and glorious people of Mozambique that I warmly and emotionally extend you greetings. [applause]. I extend warm greetings to the delegates and distinguished party members who in their leading role in the struggle, production, education, health, and political work, have won the confidence of the militants. This is why they have been chosen to be the representatives here. Through you, the delegates, I extend warm greetings to all our party militants.

I also extend warm greeting to the invited foreign delegates present who have enriched our festive mood with the solidarity of militants of the friendly parties and organizations from the five continents they represent. Your presence in our midst and the messages of fraternity and comradeship are in themselves a valuable contribution toward the success of our proceedings We have gained from you, comrades and friends, and from other battlefronts and liberated zones of the world, the experience of other struggles. We have gained encouragement in our discussions, which were vivid moments of dialogue among comrades in the same trench. You are most welcome, dear comrades and friends. [applause]

I extend greetings to guests from our own nation, sons of the people, distinguished patriots, who have come from the party, all parts of Mozambique society and who represent various occupational fields throughout the many and beautiful regions of our territory which is called Mozambique. [applause] Your presence in this hall is a vivid illustration that Mozambique patriots from all regions and backgrounds identify with the common aspirations [words indistinct] objectives of the Frelimo Party. You are most welcome, comrades and Mozambique compatriots. [applause]

I extend greetings in particular to those Mozambicans who, in the most difficult conditions of the fight against armed aggression, in the difficult conditions of production, education, health, and political work, unwaveringly face obstacles and fight heroically for the consolidation of our independence and the advancement of revolution. To the Mozambique people, to these generous and fighting workers, peasants, soldiers, and revolutionary intellectuals, to the Mozambique men and women, to the youths and pioneers of revolution who are the driving force and raison d'etre of our party, I extend fraternal greetings from the Central Committee of our beloved Frelimo Party. [applause]

Comrades and friends, during these years, the Mozambique people considered their history of struggle, and with determination they devoted themselves to the construction of a fatherland freed from oppression. With our able hands and sweat and the strong desire to learn, we consolidated our economy by producing and fighting. We agreed to make any sacrifice, including the sacrifice of our lives, to defend and make our fatherland greater. We waged a broad ideological, political, and cultural transformation of Mozambique society. Throughout the country a new way of life without domination and without discrimination now flourishes. In only 8 years we laid the foundations for a balanced economic development aimed at ensuring the well-being of the people.

Continuing with the glorious tradition of the struggle for national liberation, the Frelimo Party was able to lead the Mozambique nation in the uncompromising defense of the people's interests. It was under the leadership of our party that we have been able to ensure the defense of our independence. It was under the leadership of our party that we have been able to broaden the struggle against exploitation and misery. It was under the leadership of our party that we have been able to consolidate our revolutionary gains. The Frelimo Party is the driving force of our unity. It is the focus of our aspirations, the force which vigorously impels us to fully use our creative abilities. The Frelimo Party guides and leads us toward the building of socialism and happiness for the coming generations.

The broad mass movement generated in every factory, village commune, school, military unit, hospital, cooperative, and workplace had galvanized all sectors of the population into action to support the congress, and this is shown by the people's indentification with the party from Rovuma to Maputo and from the Indian Ocean to Zumbo.

Comrade delegates, invited guests and friends, the consolidation of independence, the defense of the fatherland, and the construction of a new society and socialism have not been easy tasks in our geopolitical context. The victories we have achieved have been a result of the dedication, commitment and sacrifice, intelligence, courage, and creativity of each and every Mozambique patriot.

In our daily struggle in the military, economic, social, and political fields, in our daily struggle during which we share our joys and disappointments with our comrades and compatriots, and in our victories and setbacks, we have learned to love one another. We have learned to value the sacrifices made by each of us.

In our daily struggle we saw our comrades die in our trenches, our colleagues in the most difficult periods of our struggle. Their physical absence today, during this important event, makes the memories of their company during many years of common struggle even more vivid.

Among the comrades we have lost since the third congress, we recall in particular two members of the Central Committee, and distinguished fighters in the struggle for national liberation, Comrades Francisco Langa and Alberto Cassimo, taken from us by premature death.

During the same period a number of brave fighters, peaceful citizens, distinguished patriots, and exemplary militants belonging to the people's power structures and the party lost their lives in the defense of our national integrity and sovereignty. They died as victims of the cruel insanity of the counterrevolution. They are the heroic sons of the Mozambique people, and the fatherland will never forget them. The Frelimo Party Central Committee pays heartfelt homage to all these militants who cannot today share with us this exciting time.

It is also with grief that we recall at the opening session of our fourth congress the distinguished leaders of the cause of African liberation, the international communist movement, and the national liberation movement. The militants of the Frelimo Party and the Mozambique people, with profound affection, vividly recall Comrade Antonio Agostinho Neto, our comrade in arms, the father of the Angolan Revolution and an honorary citizen of our country. We recall important figures in Africa, such as Comrade Marien Ngouabi, revolutionary leader of the Congolese people, murdered by neocolonialist agents; Houari Boumedienne, distinguished leader of the Algerian nation and a friend of the Mozambique people; and Seretse Khama, a prominent Nationalist and a great believer in regional cooperation in southern Africa. Southern Africa also lost King Sobhuza II. Since our third congress some revolutionary militants of great international prestige have died. We lost our friend and African fighter, Jomo Kenyatta, a historical figure in the struggle against colonialism. The Mozambique people deeply felt the death of Comrade Josip Broz Tito, a great commander and guerrilla, anti-imperialist leader, and the leader of the struggle of the Yugoslav people against Nazism and fascism. With the death of Tito, the last figure of the brilliant generation of statesmen who founded the Nonaligned Movement also disappeared. With esteem and respect, our people recall Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, the beloved leader of the Soviet people, a distinguished Communist and an untiring leader for the cause of peace and a great friend of the Mozambique Revolution. At this time we also

share the grief of the heroic people of Vietnam following the loss of their esteemed leader, Comrade Ton Duc Thang.

The Mozambique people, in their fighting experience, are emotionally following the progress made by national liberation movements throughout the world. That is why we were greatly grieved to learn about the death in battle of Comrade Nicolao Res Lobato, the leader of the Maubere people. His example inspired the people of East Timor during the most difficult conditions when they oppose, in an exemplary manner, the occupation of their fatherland.

Comrades, to the memory of all these comrades in arms who died at their combat stations for liberty, peace, progress, and the happiness of the peoples, I propose that we observe one minute of silence. [one minute pause]

Thank you very much, comrades.

Dear comrades, our experience demonstrates that in all our congresses we were able to identify the major problems of our struggle and lay the groundwork for victory.

In the first congress we drew up guidelines for the struggle against colonialism. The congress also drew up guidelines for unity, an indispensable requirement for defeating colonialism. The congress defined the need to organize the struggle for national liberation on all fronts and through all means.

In Matchedje, Niassa Province, in the liberated area of our country, we held the second congress, which saw the victory of the revolutionary course, which decided on popular war, which gave priority to the reconstruction of the liberated areas, and which realized the importance of emancipating Mozambique women. The second congress identified the fundamentals for the building of a new society and drew up the strategy which led to the total liberation of the fatherland and the revolution.

In the capital of our independent country we were able to hold the third congress, during which we expressed joy for our victory over colonialism and drew up guidelines for the future of our nation. It was here that we defined the socialist nature of our revolution, and we created the Marxist-Leninist party to lead it. It is this tradition of victory through our congresses which justifies the enthusiasm and the joy of all the people in the convocation of the fourth congress.

During the fourth congress we will discuss our difficulties. We will define major patriotic tasks involving all the people. The Mozambique people are aware that the victory and the achievement of progress and the well-being of our people in our present economic and political situation cannot be obtained without struggle. Everything we have today — independence, liberty, dignity, progress, equality — was, above all, the fruit of our struggle, our work, our unity, and the people's confidence in the ability of the party leadership. Solving our problems, no matter how difficult they are or may appear to be, depends on our people, and on the ability to examine, discuss, and draw up guidelines for the future. This is our experience from struggle and work. Organized and united by the same objectives we are here, delegates elected by the militants of our party, to make decisions which will lead to the solution of problems which we face and the continuation of the victorious march towards socialism in our fatherland.

This congress is the climax of a broad people's debate which involved the entire nations in the discussion of the eight theses proposed by the Central Committee. Our task, as delegates, is to examine in depth this wealthy experience and translate it into decisions which will give us new impetus to continue in the path of progress chosed by the Mozambique people.

Dear delegates, comrades and friends, on behalf of the Frelimo Party Central Committee, elected by the third congress and in accordance with statutory conditions for the holding of the congress, I hereby solemnly declare the Fourth Frelimo Party Congress officially open. [applause and slogans]

Zimbabwe Leader Speaks

MB280637 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe has expressed ZANU-PF's determination to transform itself into a truly Marxist-Leninist party to ensure the charting of an irreversible social course and create a socialist society. Addressing the fourth congress of Frelimo in Maputo yesterday, Comrade Mugabe said like Mozambique, Zimbabwe is determined to fight the forces of aggression and internal reaction in defence of a hard earned national sovereignty and democratic system.

Comrade Mugabe said Zimbabwe will continue to regard the struggles of Namibia and South Africa as its own and pledged to sustain the OAU and the preservation of its unity against devisive forces. He hailed Mozambique for its supreme sacrifices for Zimbabwe, which forged a single identity and common destiny for the people of the two countries.

Soviet Warships Arrive on Friendship Visit

MB271707 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] Two Soviet warships, the (Nikolay Viskon) and the Donbass, arrived in Maputo port yesterday on a friendship and solidarity visit. The ships were met at the entrance to Maputo Bay by a Mozambican Navy vessel which accompanied them to the port where the crew was welcomed by a high-level delegation from the Mozambican Armed Forces.

Soviet technicians working in Maputo, Mozambican workers, and the Armed Forces band lined at the quayside to welcome the ships. They will stay in the port until 5 May and will be opened for guided tours by the population of the capital.